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presents

AS101 – Stems and Branches and the Chinese Calendar



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THE STEMS AND BRANCHES AND THE CHINESE CALENDAR

INTRODUCTION

The stems and branches are the way the ancient Chinese measured time, as well as space. Therefore, they are essential elements of, and the gateway to Feng Shui, Chinese astrology, day selection, and *Yijing* calculation arts. A good foundation in the Chinese calendar is also necessary. This class will teach you everything you need to know about the stems and branches and Chinese calendar in order to have the background for studying the Chinese arts and sciences mentioned above.

The stems and the branches are some of the oldest Chinese characters. They were often found on the oracle bones, making them more than 4000 years old. They represent the cycles of heaven and earth, and have a profound effect on our well-being. They are based on yin and yang and the five elements, but have many other aspects to them.

Most Westerners do not know that the Chinese have always had a solar calendar as well as a lunar one. In this class, you will also learn to understand these two aspects of the Chinese calendar, as well as the Chinese view of the seasons.

All of traditional Chinese culture and arts is based on the theories of yin yang and the five elements. Here we offer a short review. If you desire more information, books on Chinese medicine, feng shui, and even the martial arts may be consulted. It is essential to understand these theories in order to learn about the stems and branches.

YIN YANG (陰陽)

The ancient theory of yin yang dates back to the Zhou dynasty, about 1000-770 BCE. Yin and yang represent generic polar opposition. No equivalent terminology exists in the English language.

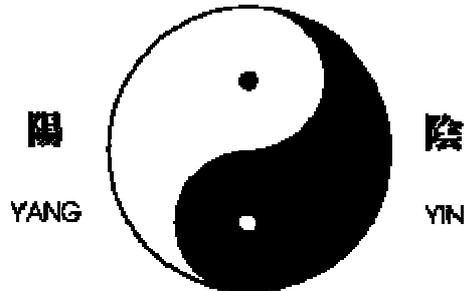
We show some idea of the meaning of and correspondences for yin yang in the following table.

YIN	YANG
Cold	Heat
Night	Day
Winter	Summer
Dark	Bright
Heavy	Light
Matter	Energy
Female	Male
Moon	Sun
North	South
Right	Left
Earth	Heaven
Space	Time
Rest	Activity

The basic principles of yin yang theory are:

- Yin and yang oppose each other. Hot (yang) and cold (yin) are opposites.
- Yin and yang are interdependent. Summer (yang) cannot occur without winter (yin).
- Yin and yang are inter-consuming and inter-supporting, creating balance. As night (yin) grows, day (yang) declines.
- Yin and yang inter-transform. What goes up (yang) must eventually come down (yin), after it reaches its peak.
- Yin and yang are infinitely divisible. Yin always exists within yang and yang always exists within yin. Summer is yang, but summer in Alaska is more yin than summer in Florida.

These principles are all represented in the taiji diagram (太極圖), more commonly called the yin yang symbol:



- Black and white, right and left, upper and lower, represent opposition.
- The curved line (separating the two parts that fill the whole circle) represents interdependence.
- One side increasing as the other decreases represents an inter-consuming and inter-supporting nature.
- One side flowing into the other represents inter-transformation.
- The dot on each side represents the divisible nature of yin yang.

THE FIVE ELEMENTS (五行 wu xing)

The five elements are a more recent theory than yin yang. The first references to the elements date back to the Warring States Period (476-221 BCE).

In five element theory, all phenomena can be divided into five types: wood (mu 木), fire (huo 火), earth (tu 土), metal (jin 金), and water (shui 水). The following table shows some of the correspondences:

	WOOD	FIRE	EARTH	METAL	WATER
DIRECTION	East	South	Center	West	North
COLOR	Green	Red	Yellow	White	Black
SEASON	Spring	Summer	Transition	Autumn	Winter
EMOTION	Anger	Joy	Thought	Sadness	Fear
STAGE	Birth	Growth	Transformation	Harvest	Storage
YIN ORGAN	Liver	Heart	Spleen	Lung	Kidney
YANG ORGAN	Gall Bladder	Small Intestine	Stomach	Large Intestine	Urinary Bladder

These correspondences could continue indefinitely to include grains, animals, meats, sense organs, sounds, musical notes, etc.

One way you can view the five elements is with earth in the center and the other four elements surrounding it. In this case, the energy flows clockwise from element to element, but it always returns to earth, the center, in between. For example, wood flows to earth, which flows to fire, back again to earth, to metal, returning to earth, going to water, again to earth, and beginning the cycle once again with wood. This is illustrated as follows:

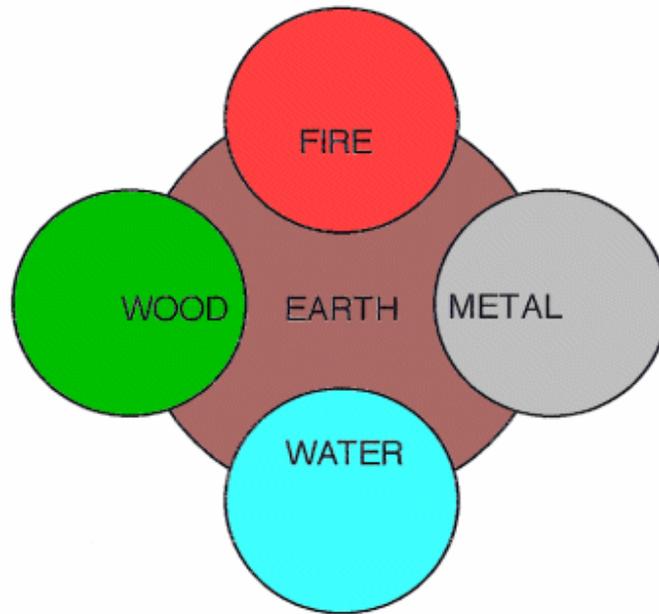


Diagram 2

In Chinese thought, there is a division of the universe into heaven (tian 天), man (ren 人) and earth (di 地). This arrangement of the elements, with earth in the center, is the natural order on planet earth.

The heavenly order is slightly different. In it, the earth element is an equal part of the circle. The flow is from wood to fire to earth to metal to water and back to wood again.

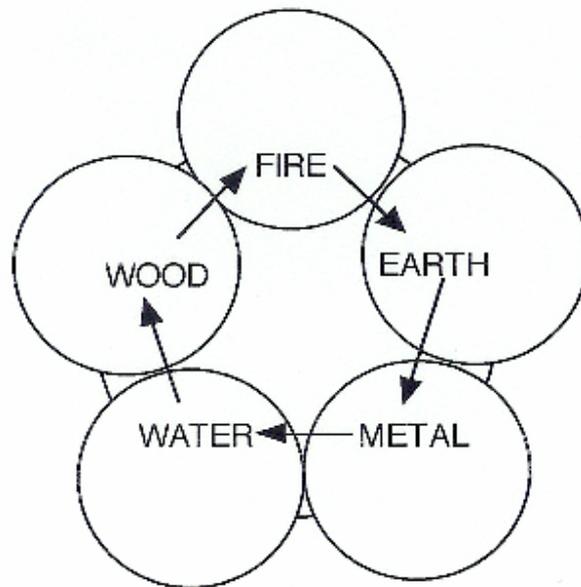


Diagram 3

The relationships between the five elements are important in analyzing the relationships of objects and phenomena around us. Each element engenders the next element clockwise around the circle. Wood is said to fuel fire, which creates earth, which in turn produces metal. Metal holds water, which once again nourishes wood. This clockwise flow is called the productive (sheng 生) cycle.

A logical extension of the productive cycle is that each element reduces the strength of the element that precedes it. For example, wood produces fire, but fire reduces wood.

Another relationship exists. This is called the domination (ke 剋) cycle. Each element dominates or controls the element that is located two places clockwise from it in the cycle (depicted in the following diagram by the thicker lines in the shape of a star on the inside of the circle).

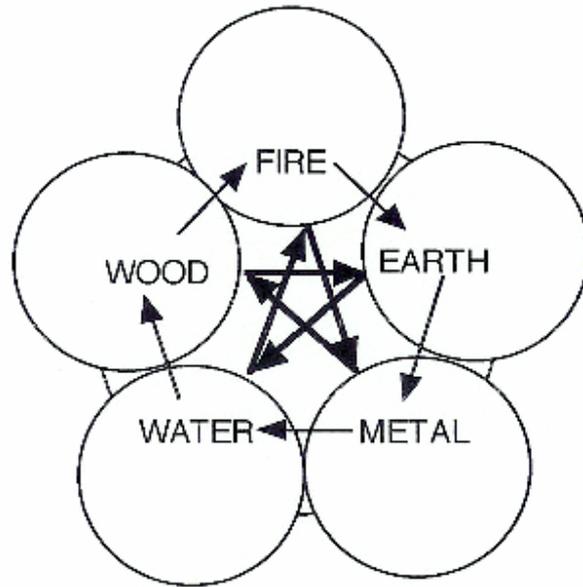


Diagram 4

Yin yang and the five elements are the foundation for the next section about the stems and branches.

Quiz 1: Yin Yang and Five Elements

1. Which is yang: heavy or light?
2. Which is yin: right or left?
3. Yin and yang
 - a. oppose each other
 - b. transform into each other
 - c. are found within each other
 - d. all of the above
4. Autumn corresponds to which element?
5. Water corresponds to which direction?
6. Earth corresponds to which stage?
 - a. growth
 - b. birth
 - c. storage
 - d. harvest
 - e. transformation
7. Which element does wood feed (or produce)?
8. Which element reduces the strength of earth?
9. Which element controls or dominates water?
10. Sometimes, earth is an element between fire and metal. Other times, earth is found where?

Quiz 1 Answers

1. Which is yang: heavy or light?

Answer: Light

2. Which is yin: right or left?

Answer: Right

3. Yin and yang

- a. oppose each other
- b. transform into each other
- c. are found within each other
- d. all of the above

Answer: d

4. Autumn corresponds to which element?

Answer: metal

5. Water corresponds to which direction?

Answer: North

6. Earth corresponds to which stage?

- a. growth
- b. birth
- c. storage
- d. harvest
- e. transformation

Answer: e

7. Which element does wood feed (or produce)?

Answer: Fire

8. Which element reduces the strength of earth?

Answer: Metal

9. Which element controls or dominates water?

Answer: Earth

10. Sometimes, earth is an element between fire and metal. Other times, earth is found where?

Answer: in the center

THE STEMS AND BRANCHES

Natural phenomenon comes and goes in regular cycles; it never stops or rests. Day follows night, night follows day. The moon waxes and wanes, and waxes again. The stems and branches represent time and a system of order, as well as implying the natural processes of sprouting, growing, thriving, declining, and dying. They mark the passing of time in cycles, as well as describing the qualities of different time periods.

The characters for the stems and branches often appeared on oracle bones from the second millennium BCE.

The Ten Heavenly Stems (十天干)

The ten stems represent heavenly energy spiraling downward. The number ten represents completion or perfection; therefore, it is an appropriate number for heaven. The stems repeat in a cyclical fashion.

The stems consist of:

CHINESE	PINYIN	NUMBER	ELEMENT
甲	Jia	1	Yang Wood
乙	Yi	2	Yin Wood
丙	Bing	3	Yang Fire
丁	Ding	4	Yin Fire
戊	Wu	5	Yang Earth
己	Ji	6	Yin Earth
庚	Geng	7	Yang Metal
辛	Xin	8	Yin Metal
壬	Ren	9	Yang Water
癸	Gui	10	Yin Water

A serious student of feng shui or Chinese astrology will memorize the above table.

Notice the following patterns:

- The nature of each stem is yin or yang. They alternate yang and yin, beginning with yang for Stem 1.
- The stems run in the productive order of the five elements, beginning with wood, as wood represents birth and beginnings.
- Two stems belong to each of the five elements: one yin and one yang. These two stems of the same element are adjacent to each other: yang wood stem, then yin wood stem, yang fire stem, then yin fire stem, etc.
- Yang stems always have odd numbers and yin stems always have even numbers. This is true of all Chinese numerology, since odd is yang and even is yin. In the Yijing (易經) a yang line is unbroken (—) and a yin line is broken (- -), leaving one component of a yang line and two components of a yin line.

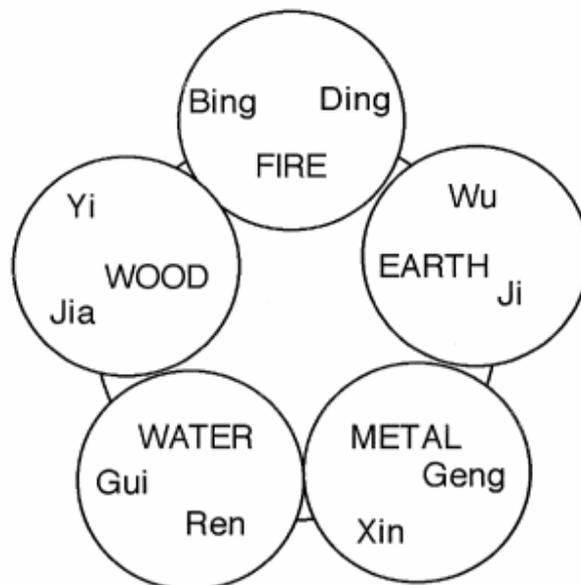


Diagram 5

The Twelve Earthly Branches (十二地支)

The earthly branches flow in a cycle of twelve. They represent the qi of the earth radiating outward. Each branch corresponds with an element and with an animal of the Chinese zodiac.

CHINESE	BRANCH	NUMBER	ANIMAL	ELEMENT
子	Zi	1	Rat	Yang Water
丑	Chou	2	Ox	Yin Earth
寅	Yin	3	Tiger	Yang Wood
卯	Mao	4	Rabbit	Yin Wood
辰	Chen	5	Dragon	Yang Earth
巳	Si	6	Snake	Yin Fire
午	Wu	7	Horse	Yang Fire
未	Wei	8	Sheep	Yin Earth
申	Shen	9	Monkey	Yang Metal
酉	You	10	Rooster	Yin Metal
戌	Xu	11	Dog	Yang Earth
亥	Hai	12	Pig	Yin Water

A serious student of feng shui or Chinese astrology will memorize the above table.

Notice the following:

- The branches alternate between yang and yin, as do the stems. The odd-numbered branches are yang and the even-numbered branches are yin.
- Two branches exist for every element except earth, which has four.
- The four earth element branches separate the other elements. This is because the energy of the earthly branches, unlike the heavenly stems, returns to the center (earth) before transforming into the next element.

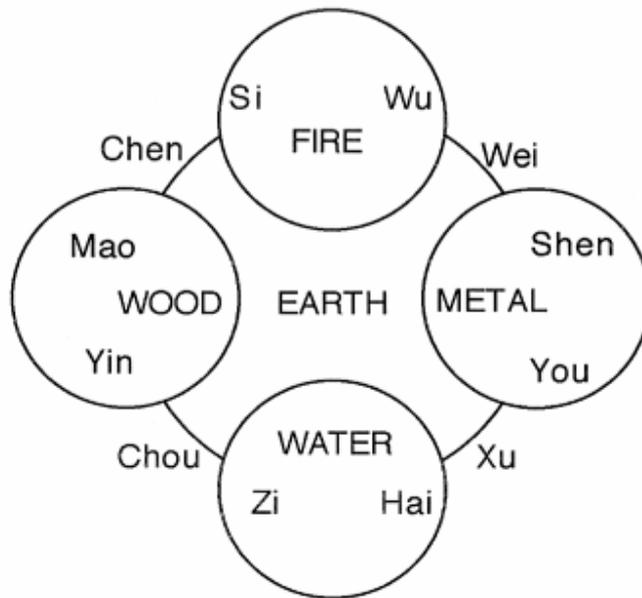


Diagram 6

Do not confuse the stem wu (戊) with the branch wu (午). Notice that they have different Chinese characters.

The number twelve represents the dimension of time. We have 12 months in a year, and 12 double-hours in a day, so each branch represents one month and one 2-hour period, illustrated below. Notice that the Chinese day starts at 11 pm on the prior evening, not at midnight as it does in the West.

BRANCH	NUMBER	HOUR	MONTH
Zi	1	11pm-1am	11 th
Chou	2	1-3am	12 th
Yin	3	3-5am	1 st
Mao	4	5-7am	2 nd
Chen	5	7-9am	3 rd
Si	6	9-11am	4 th
Wu	7	11am-1pm	5 th
Wei	8	1-3pm	6 th
Shen	9	3-5pm	7 th
You	10	5-7pm	8 th
Xu	11	7-9pm	9 th
Hai	12	9-11pm	10 th

The first branch, zi, rules at the period containing both midnight and the winter solstice. This is the time when yin is the strongest.



Diagram 7

The water element is related to zi. The branches begin with water at the bottom of the cycle when yin is at its maximum and before yang starts to increase again. The earthly branches start with water while the heavenly stems begin with wood. This is because the earth's energy is more yin than heaven's and the branches belong to the earth.

The third branch, yin (do not confuse this with the yin of yin and yang), relates to the wood element, representing spring, birth, and beginnings. This also corresponds to the first month of the Chinese calendar and marks the beginning of spring. Because the first month is the third branch, the first branch, zi, represents the eleventh month.

Quiz 2: Stems and Branches

1. Is geng yin or yang? What element is it? Is it a stem or branch?
2. Is gui yin or yang? What element is it? Is it a stem or branch?
3. Is si yin or yang? What element is it? Is it a stem or branch?
4. What number is the branch shen?
5. What number is the stem wu?
6. Are even numbered stems yin or yang?
7. What are the four earth branches?
8. What is the mao time-period?
9. Which branch represents the last month of the year?
10. If someone tells you they were born in a dragon year, to which branch are they referring ?

Quiz 2 Answers

1. Is geng yin or yang? What element is it? Is it a stem or branch?

Answer: yang metal stem

2. Is gui yin or yang? What element is it? Is it a stem or branch?

Answer: yin water stem

3. Is si yin or yang? What element is it? Is it a stem or branch?

Answer: yin fire branch

4. What number is the branch shen?

Answer: 9

5. What number is the stem wu?

Answer: 5

6. Are even numbered stems yin or yang?

Answer: yin

7. What are the four earth branches?

Answer: chou, chen, wei, and xu

8. What is the mao time-period?

Answer: 5 - 7 a.m.

9. Which branch represents the last month of the year?

Answer: chou

10. If someone tells you they were born in a dragon year, to which branch are they referring ?

Answer: chen

THE CYCLE OF SIXTY

The stems flow from heaven while the branches flow from earth, and in between, both affect humanity.

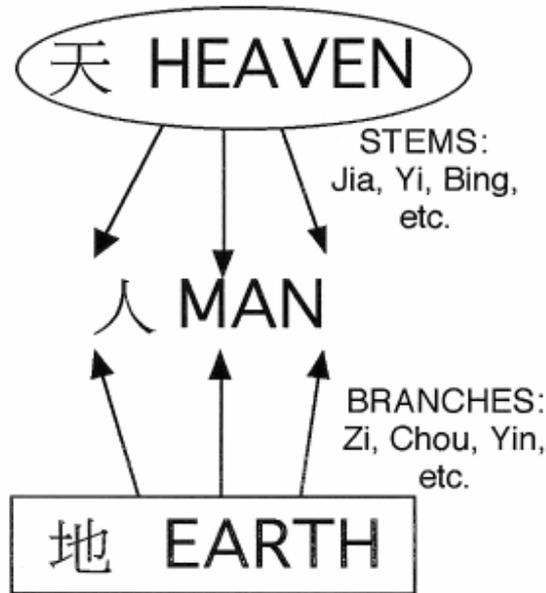


Diagram 8

The stems and branches progress in parallel cycles. When the ten stems and twelve branches combine, they become a greater cycle of 60. This cycle of sixty (also known as the sexagenary cycle) consists of six rotations of the stems and five rotations of the branches. Yin stems always combine with yin branches and yang stems always combine with yang branches.

The combinations progress as follows:

Stem 1 Branch 1 both yang
Stem 2 Branch 2 both yin
Stem 3 Branch 3 both yang
Stem 4 Branch 4 both yin
Stem 5 Branch 5 both yang
Stem 6 Branch 6 both yin
Stem 7 Branch 7 both yang
Stem 8 Branch 8 both yin
Stem 9 Branch 9 both yang
Stem 10 Branch 10 both yin
Stem 1 Branch 11 both yang
Stem 2 Branch 12 both yin
Stem 3 Branch 1 both yang etc.

This cycle is used to count the progression of years, months, days, and hours. A time period may be called ‘甲子,’ ‘jiazi,’ ‘Stem 1 Branch 1,’ or ‘Number 1 in the Cycle of Sixty.’

The following table shows the cycle of sixty and its associations:

NUMBER	STEM/ BRANCH	ELEMENTS	
1	S1B1	Jia Zi	Yang Wood Water
2	S2B2	Yi Chou	Yin Wood Earth
3	S3B3	Bing Yin	Yang Fire Wood
4	S4B4	Ding Mao	Yin Fire Wood
5	S5B5	Wu Chen	Yang Earth Earth
6	S6B6	Ji Si	Yin Earth Fire
7	S7B7	Geng Wu	Yang Metal Fire
8	S8B8	Xin Wei	Yin Metal Earth
9	S9B9	Ren Shen	Yang Water Metal
10	S10B10	Gui You	Yin Water Metal
11	S1B11	Jia Xu	Yang Wood Earth
12	S2B12	Yi Hai	Yin Wood Water
13	S3B1	Bing Zi	Yang Fire Water
14	S4B2	Ding Chou	Yin Fire Earth
15	S5B3	Wu Yin	Yang Earth Wood
16	S6B4	Ji Mao	Yin Earth Wood
17	S7B5	Geng Chen	Yang Metal Earth
18	S8B6	Xin Si	Yin Metal Fire
19	S9B7	Ren Wu	Yang Water Fire
20	S10B8	Gui Wei	Yin Water Earth
21	S1B9	Jia Shen	Yang Wood Metal
22	S2B10	Yi You	Yin Wood Metal
23	S3B11	Bing Xu	Yang Fire Earth
24	S4B12	Ding Hai	Yin Fire Water
25	S5B1	Wu Zi	Yang Earth Water
26	S6B2	Ji Chou	Yin Earth Earth
27	S7B3	Geng Yin	Yang Metal Wood
28	S8B4	Xin Mao	Yin Metal Wood
29	S9B5	Ren Chen	Yang Water Earth
30	S10B6	Gui Si	Yin Water Fire

NUMBER	STEM/ BRANCH		ELEMENTS
31	S1B7	Jia Wu	Yang Wood Fire
32	S2B8	Yi Wei	Yin Wood Earth
33	S3B9	Bing Shen	Yang Fire Metal
34	S4B10	Ding You	Yin Fire Metal
35	S5B11	Wu Xu	Yang Earth Earth
36	S6B12	Ji Hai	Yin Earth Water
37	S7B1	Geng Zi	Yang Metal Water
38	S8B2	Xin Chou	Yin Metal Earth
39	S9B3	Ren Yin	Yang Water Wood
40	S10B4	Gui Mao	Yin Water Wood
41	S1B5	Jia Chen	Yang Wood Earth
42	S2B6	Yi Si	Yin Wood Fire
43	S3B7	Bing Wu	Yang Fire Fire
44	S4B8	Ding Wei	Yin Fire Earth
45	S5B9	Wu Shen	Yang Earth Metal
46	S6B10	Ji You	Yin Earth Metal
47	S7B11	Geng Xu	Yang Metal Earth
48	S8B12	Xin Hai	Yin Metal Water
49	S9B1	Ren Zi	Yang Water Water
50	S10B2	Gui Chou	Yin Water Earth
51	S1B3	Jia Yin	Yang Wood Wood
52	S2B4	Yi Mao	Yin Wood Wood
53	S3B5	Bing Chen	Yang Fire Earth
54	S4B6	Ding Si	Yin Fire Fire
55	S5B7	Wu Wu	Yang Earth Fire
56	S6B8	Ji Wei	Yin Earth Earth
57	S7B9	Geng Shen	Yang Metal Metal
58	S8B10	Xin You	Yin Metal Metal
59	S9B11	Ren Xu	Yang Water Earth
60	S10B12	Gui Hai	Yin Water Water

As an example, let's look at number 21 in the Cycle of Sixty. It contains Stem 1

(jia) and Branch 9 (shen), abbreviated in the chart as 'S1B9.' This is a yang combination because 1 and 9 are both odd, or yang. Jia is yang wood and shen is yang metal; therefore we call the combination yang wood metal.

Each year, month, day, and double-hour has a stem and a branch, or a position in the cycle of sixty. For example, there is a sixty year cycle, as well as a sixty day cycle that has an effect on us. How this is integrated into the Chinese calendar will be discussed later.

Quiz 3: Cycle of Sixty

1. What is combination number 59 in the cycle of 60?
2. What number is ren shen in the cycle of 60?
3. What are the elements involved in wu zi, and are they yin, yang, or mixed?
4. Can yin and yang be mixed in a stem-branch combination?
5. What stem-branch combination will come five years after an yi you year?
6. In wu zi, which one is the stem?
7. What combination comes just before gui si?
8. What is the water ox combination?
9. What is the stem 3 branch 7 combination?
10. What stem branch combination comes after gui hai?

Quiz 3 Answers

1. What is combination number 59 in the cycle of 60?

Answer: ren xu

2. What number is ren shen in the cycle of 60?

Answer: 9

3. What are the elements involved in wu zi, and are they yin, yang, or mixed?

Answer: yang earth water

4. Can yin and yang be mixed in a stem-branch combination?

Answer: no

5. What stem-branch combination will come five years after an yi you year?

Answer: geng yin

6. In wu zi, which one is the stem?

Answer: wu

7. What combination comes just before gui si?

Answer: ren chen

8. What is the water ox combination?

Answer: gui chou

9. What is the stem 3 branch 7 combination?

Answer: bing wu

10. What stem branch combination comes after gui hai?

Answer: jia zi

RELATIONSHIPS OF THE STEMS AND BRANCHES

The stems and branches have various relationships. For example, the current year branch interacts with you based on the branch of the year you were born. Two people may interact with each other, in part, based on the stem of the day they were born. These practical applications will be discussed in other classes. Here we will learn the theory behind the application.

Relationships of the Stems

Here is a review of the stems:

STEM	NUMBER	ELEMENT
Jia	1	Yang Wood
Yi	2	Yin Wood
Bing	3	Yang Fire
Ding	4	Yin Fire
Wu	5	Yang Earth
Ji	6	Yin Earth
Geng	7	Yang Metal
Xin	8	Yin Metal
Ren	9	Yang Water
Gui	10	Yin Water

Since the stems correspond to different elements, they interact with each other based on the production or domination cycles. For example, jia produces or nourishes bing, since wood produces fire. Yi, which is also wood, nourishes bing, too. However, there is a difference between the two, since jia is yang and yi is yin. The relationship between yi and bing will be a little smoother in general, because one yin and one yang have more attraction to each other than two yins or two yangs. In general, productive relationships are smoother than domination relationships, but yin to yang or yang to yin is smoother than yang to yang or yin to yin.

Jia (yang wood) will, at least in theory, dominate both wu (yang earth) and ji (yin earth). The relationship will be quite harsh between jia and wu, as both are yang. A domination is also quite harsh between to yin stems, such as yi (wood) and ji (earth). However, something special happens when jia and ji get together.

STEM	NUMBER	ELEMENT	STEM	NUMBER	ELEMENT
Jia	1	Yang Wood	Ji	6	Yin Earth
Yi	2	Yin Wood	Geng	7	Yang Metal
Bing	3	Yang Fire	Xin	8	Yin Metal
Ding	4	Yin Fire	Ren	9	Yang Water
Wu	5	Yang Earth	Gui	10	Yin Water

The stems that are in the same row in the above table have a special attraction to each other. Note that stem one and stem 6 are a pair, stem 2 and stem 7, stem 3 and stem 8, etc. Stems that have a difference of 5 are in this relationship, which is called the **Five Combinations** (wu he 五合).

Notice that one is yin and the other is yang. Notice that the yang one dominates the yin one. Here, instead of friction, there is attraction. In Chinese literature, this was compared to the stereotypical relationship between husband and wife, where the husband (yang) dominates the wife (yin). This stereotype may have changed today, but the attraction between these stems remains.

In fact, if the two attracted stems can meet each other, and the circumstances are right, they can combine as in chemistry, to produce another element. As long as they stay combined, they lose their original element correspondence and act like the newly created element.

THE FIVE COMBINATIONS				
STEM		STEM		ELEMENT
Jia	combines with	Ji	to create	earth
Yi		Geng		metal
Bing		Xin		water
Ding		Ren		wood
Wu		Gui		fire

How and when this happens will be left to future classes.

To summarize the relationships of the stems:

- Domination between two yang stems or two yin stems is not smooth, and causes much friction.
- When a yin stem dominates a yang stem, there is friction, but not as bad as when both stems are yang, or both stems are yin.
- When a yang stem dominates a yin stem, this is the relationship called the five combinations. It is smooth and comfortable. If they combine, they generate a new element together.
- If one yang stem produces another yang stem, or one yin stem produces another yin stem, this relationship is fairly smooth.
- If a yang stem produces a yin stem, or a yin stem produces a yang stem, this is very smooth.

Besides the smoothness or roughness of a relationship, there is another issue. If jia and ji combine together to make earth, this is a smooth relationship. But is it always good? It is good only if the earth element is helpful. If the earth element is harmful, then even though the relationship is smooth, the results will not be good. The application of these principles will be given in other classes.

Quiz 4: Stem Relationships

1. Which is a smoother relationship? geng and ren or geng and gui
2. Which is a smoother relationship? geng and jia or geng and yi
3. Which is one of the five combinations? bing and xin or xin and jia?
4. Is ding attracted to geng, xin, ren, or gui?
5. If wu and gui meet up and combine, what is the resulting element?
6. Which of the five combinations makes earth?
7. Which relationship is difficult or rough? yi and gui, yi and ding, yi and xin, or yi and geng

Quiz 4 Answers

1. Which is a smoother relationship? geng and ren or geng and gui
Answer: geng and gui (because one is yang: geng, and one is yin: gui, and geng metal produces gui water.)
2. Which is a smoother relationship? geng and jia or geng and yi
Answer: geng and yi (because one is yang: geng, and one is yin: yi. Even though geng metal dominates or controls yi wood, there is attraction.)
3. Which is one of the five combinations? bing and xin or xin and jia?
Answer: bing and xin (because the yang stem must control the yin stem.)
4. Is ding attracted to geng, xin, ren, or gui?
Answer: ren (this is one of the five combinations.)
5. If wu and gui meet up and combine, what is the resulting element?
Answer: fire
6. Which of the five combinations makes earth?
Answer: jia and ji
7. Which relationship is difficult or rough? yi and gui, yi and ding, yi and xin, or yi and geng
Answer: yi and xin (both are yin, and xin dominates yi.)

Relationships of the Branches

Here is a review of the branches:

BRANCH	NUMBER	ANIMAL	ELEMENT
Zi	1	Rat	Yang Water
Chou	2	Ox	Yin Earth
Yin	3	Tiger	Yang Wood
Mao	4	Rabbit	Yin Wood
Chen	5	Dragon	Yang Earth
Si	6	Snake	Yin Fire
Wu	7	Horse	Yang Fire
Wei	8	Sheep	Yin Earth
Shen	9	Monkey	Yang Metal
You	10	Rooster	Yin Metal
Xu	11	Dog	Yang Earth
Hai	12	Pig	Yin Water

The branches have many more types of relationships than the stems. We will describe a number of them.

There are two ways to diagram the branches. One is in a circle, like a clock face, with zi at 6 o'clock, and wu at 12 o'clock:

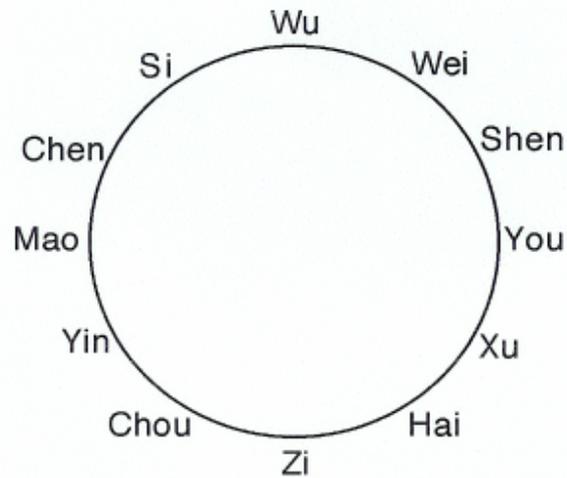


Diagram 9

The other is in a square or rectangular shape:

si	wu	wei	shen
chen			you
mao			xu
yin	chou	zi	hai

This format is called the twelve palaces.

We will use both in our explanations below.

Oppositions (liu chong 六冲)



Diagram 10

For this we use the clock face. Any two branches that are opposite to each other in the above diagram are ‘in opposition.’ In most cases, this means that they are incompatible, causing friction, arguments, or even harming each other.

OPPOSITIONS	
Zi	Wu
Chou	Wei
Yin	Shen
Mao	You
Chen	Xu
Si	Hai

In most cases, the two opposing branches have a domination relationship when the elements are examined.

The Three Combinations (san he 三合)

Any relationship with the word 'combination' in it means that these branches are attracted to each other, and that if they are able to combine, they transform to another element, like a chemical reaction. Combinations are also generally harmonious and beneficial relationships.

The Three Combinations is a complicated relationship, but a very important one. It is used quite frequently, so you should be sure to understand it.

Using the branches around a clock face (same as mentioned above), one can draw four equilateral triangles to make four groups of three branches each.

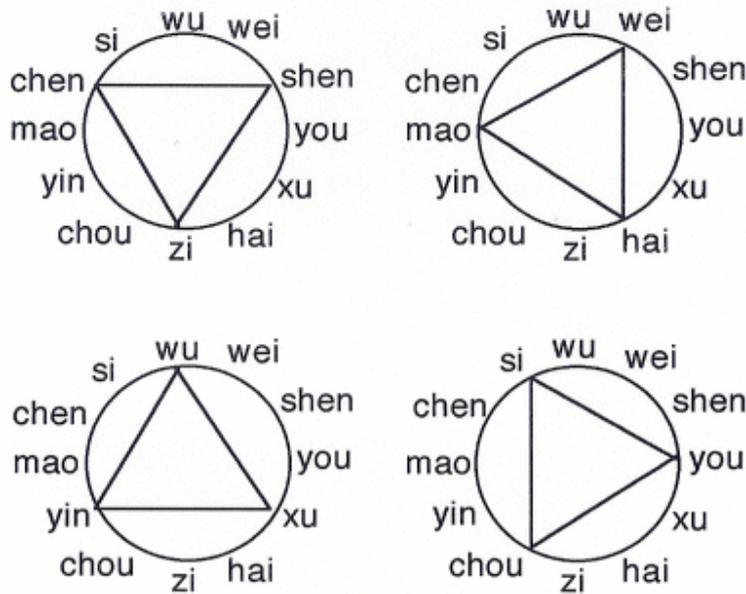


Diagram 11

Each grouping has a particular starting place: at one of the four corners.

SI	wu	wei	SHEN
chen			you
mao			xu
YIN	chou	zi	HAI

Note that in the square diagram of the branches, yin, si, shen, and hai are each in a corner. These are called the four corners. Being in a corner implies activity, so these are the starting place for each group of the Three Combinations. We can call it the generator, as it is the beginning.

The second in the group is one of the four directions. The four directions are north (zi), east (mao), south (wu), and west (you). You can verify this by looking at a luopan (Chinese compass). This is the member of the group of three that defines the group. For example, the south (wu branch) relates to the fire element, so the combination with wu in it wants to transform to fire. We can call this the peak.

The last branch in the group is one of the four earths. If you look at the element of the branches, you will see that chou, chen, wei, and xu are all earth. In Chinese, this is called a grave, but you can also call it a bank, or a warehouse. This is because each earth stores the element of the peak in its group.

Do not think of the word ‘grave’ with negative feelings. In Chinese thought, a grave stores something precious: the bones of your ancestors. In yin house feng shui, it is taught that if these bones are buried properly, they bring great benefit to later generations.

Example: shen, zi, chen is one group of the Three Combinations. Shen is a corner, the generator. Zi is the peak, in the north direction, and defines this group as water. Chen is an earth branch. It stores water. Therefore it is called the water grave (or bank, or warehouse). Note also that shen, the generator, is metal, and feeds the water nature of the group. The earth of chen does not dominate or harm the water of this group, as this earth is the water grave.

The Three Combinations				
Corner: Generator	Direction: Peak	Earth: Grave	Element	Direction
Shen	Zi	Chen	Water	North
Si	You	Chou	Metal	West
Yin	Wu	Xu	Fire	South
Hai	Mao	Wei	Wood	East

Quiz 5: Oppositions and the Three Combinations

1. Which branch opposes hai?
2. Which branch opposes chen?
3. Which is one of the four corners? yin, mao, or chen
4. Which branch represents one of the four directions? si, wu, or wei
5. What are the branches in the three combinations relationship with si?
6. What element does shen, zi, and chen produce when they get together?
7. What element does wei store?
8. In the yin, wu, xu combination, which branch determines the element of the combination, and what is this element?

Quiz 5 Answers

1. Which branch opposes hai?

Answer: si

2. Which branch opposes chen?

Answer: xu

3. Which is one of the four corners? yin, mao, or chen

Answer: yin

4. Which branch represents one of the four directions? si, wu, or wei

Answer: wu

5. What are the branches in the three combinations relationship with si?

Answer: Si, you, and chou

6. What element does shen, zi, and chen produce when they get together?

Answer: water

7. What element does wei store?

Answer: wood (because it is the earth branch for the hai, mao, wei combination. Since mao belongs to the east and spring, the combination produces wood.)

8. In the yin, wu, xu combination, which branch determines the element of the combination, and what is this element?

Answer: wu, fire

The Six Combinations (liu he 六合)

The six combinations are not as frequently used nor as powerful as the Three Combinations. This is because three branches joined together is stronger than two branches joined. Like the Three Combinations, this relationship tends to be harmonious and beneficial, but the benefit is not as great as with the Three Combinations.

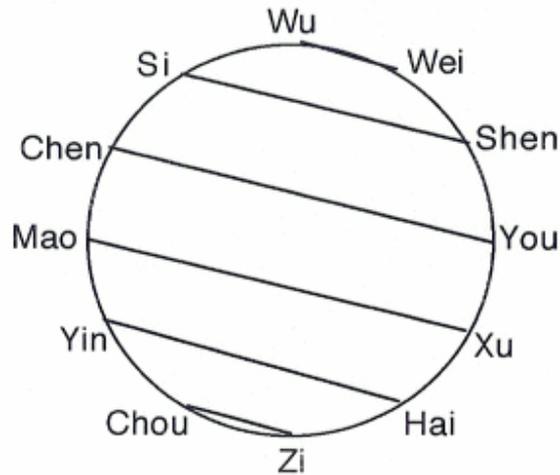


Diagram 12

The pattern of the Six Combinations can also be seen using the diagram of the twelve palaces:

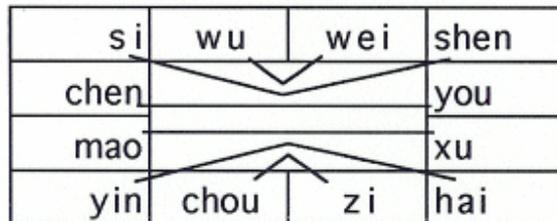


Diagram 13

The Six Combinations		
Branches Combine	to make	
Chou	Zi	Earth
Yin	Hai	Wood
Mao	Xu	Fire
Chen	You	Metal
Si	Shen	Water
Wu	Wei	Fire

The Three Meetings (san hui 三會)

This is related to the four seasons. Since each season has three months, the branches of the three months of a season have a relationship. For example, the three months of spring are yin, mao, and chen. Yin and mao are the wood months, and chen is an earth month at the end of the season. If these three branches meet up, they make very strong wood qi. The situation is the same with the other seasons. This is a harmonious relationship.

For a discussion of the Chinese view of the four seasons, see below. The Chinese seasons begin and end at different times than the Western seasons.

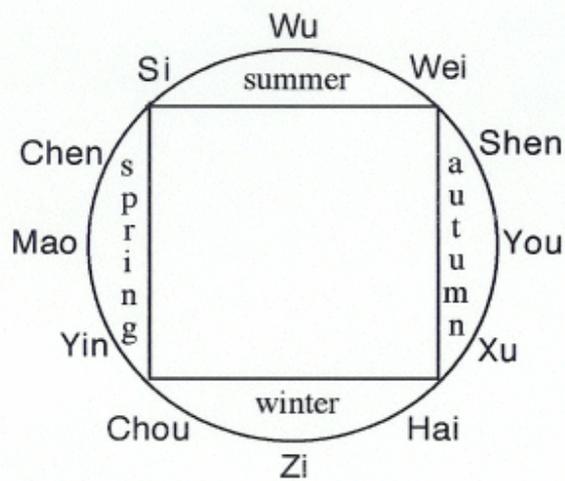


Diagram 14

The Three Meetings		
Branches	Make	Season
Hai, Zi, Chou	Water	Winter
Yin, Mao, Chen	Wood	Spring
Si, Wu, Wei	Fire	Summer
Shen, You, Xu	Metal	Autumn

Any of the Combination relationships, as well as the Three Meetings, are smooth and harmonious, without friction. Therefore they are usually beneficial. The exception is that if a certain element is harmful, and that element is made stronger by one of these relationships, then there will be some difficulty. For example, in Four Pillars astrology, if fire is harmful to me, then when si, wu, and wei meet, it will cause me problems, as it makes the fire stronger. Further discussion of this concept will take place in the relevant classes.

The Six Harms (liu hai 六害)

The Six Harms is a negative influence, but not as difficult as an opposition.

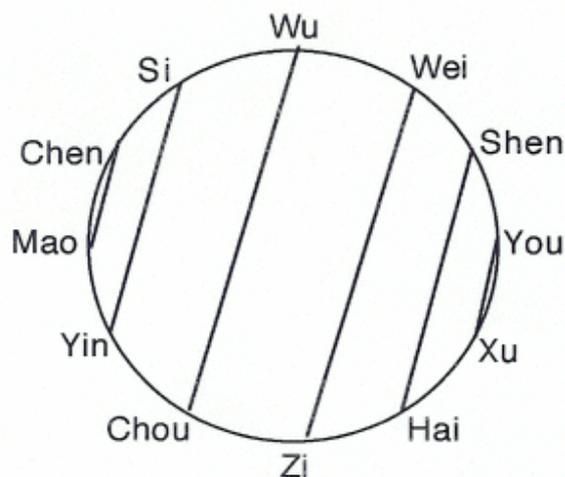


Diagram 15

The pattern can also be seen using the diagram of the twelve palaces:

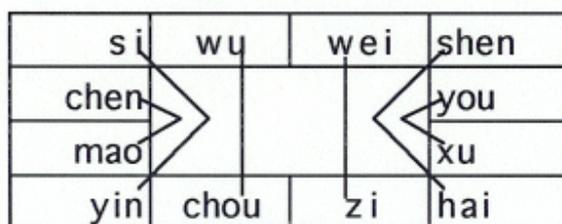


Diagram 16

THE SIX HARMS	
These branches harm each other	
Xu	You
Hai	Shen
Zi	Wei
Chou	Wu
Yin	Si
Mao	Chen

There are a few more branch relationships that we have not discussed. These are not used as frequently, so we will reserve them for classes where they will be used.

There are also some other aspects of stems and branches that are not discussed here. However, now you have a good foundation for the majority of the Chinese arts that use this type of calculation.

Quiz 6: Six Combinations, Meetings and Harms

1. Who does si like to combine with? wu, wei, or shen
2. If chou and zi get together, what do they make?
3. Which are the winter month branches, or the water meeting?
4. If si, wu, and wei are together, which element is strengthened?
5. When chou and wu get together, is another element made?
6. Which branch harms xu?
7. Which relationship(s) most cause problems? oppositions, three combinations, six combinations, three meetings, six harms

Quiz 6 Answers

1. Who does si like to combine with? wu, wei, or shen

Answer: shen, as one of the six combinations

2. If chou and zi get together, what do they make?

Answer: earth, as one of the six combinations

3. Which are the winter month branches, or the water meeting?

Answer: hai, zi, and chou

4. If si, wu, and wei are together, which element is strengthened?

Answer: fire, as the fire meeting

5. When chou and wu get together, is another element made?

Answer: No (these two are a 'harm,' which does not produce another element)

6. Which branch harms xu?

Answer: you

7. Which relationship(s) most cause problems? oppositions, three combinations, six combinations, three meetings, six harms

Answer: oppositions and harms

THE CHINESE CALENDAR OVERVIEW

The Western 'Gregorian' Calendar

The Western calendar is called the Gregorian calendar. It was named after Pope Gregory, who had it developed into its current form. The Gregorian calendar is a solar calendar because it is based on the earth's rotation around the sun. It consists of 365 days per year, except on leap years when an extra day is added, on February 29th.

A leap year occurs every fourth year. Years ending in two zeros are not leap years (e.g., 1900). On years ending in three zeros, a leap day is added (e.g., 2000).

These rules keep the months in their appropriate season. Without leap years, January eventually would take place in summer (in the northern hemisphere) because the earth takes approximately 365-1/4 days to circle the sun. The extra quarter day adds up with time, affecting the accuracy of the calendar. Adding a leap day periodically compensates for this quarter-day discrepancy.

The Chinese Luni-Solar Calendar

The Chinese developed a luni-solar calendar instead, based on the phases of the moon, as well as the sun. Twelve lunar months make up a year: this leaves the calendar about ten days short of a solar year. To correct this, a leap month is added periodically. In this way, the first month of the Chinese lunar calendar appears at the expected time. This aligns the lunar calendar with the seasons, which are based on the relationship between the earth and the sun. That is why the Chinese calendar is called luni-solar: it has both lunar and solar aspects to it.

Each lunar month begins on the new moon day and lasts for 29 or 30 days, as it takes about 29-1/2 days from new moon to new moon as we see it from the earth. Chinese months have no special names. They are simply referred to as the first month, the second month, the third month, etc.

The Chinese also developed a more detailed solar aspect to their calendar, called the 'twenty-four solar terms.' Both the solar and lunar aspects of the Chinese calendar will be discussed below.

Conversion Between the Calendars

In this class, names such as 'January' refer to the Gregorian calendar. Numbered months, such as the '11th month,' refer to the Chinese calendar.

In order to do the calculations necessary for Chinese astrology, feng shui, and day selection, we must be able to convert dates from the Gregorian calendar to the Chinese calendar and vice versa.

A *Ten-Thousand-Year Calendar* (萬年曆) is a book that allows you to look up any date over a number of years and convert it from one calendar to another. We offer a *Ten-Thousand-Year Calendar* for 1882 through 2031. It is available on our web page (www.amfengshui.com), and you will need it for this class. The *American Feng Shui Institute* also has available a *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar* in Chinese. If you are interested, please email the Institute at fsinfo@amfengshui.com.

In this class we will discuss the calendar theory, and explain how to look up the necessary information in the *Ten-Thousand-Year Calendar*. Sometimes we will also tell you how to calculate certain data without the *Ten-Thousand-Year Calendar*, although we find using the tables more convenient than calculating.

The Year

Every year has its own stem and branch. If you are using the *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar*, this is listed on the top row of every year table. In the excerpt from the 1976 table below, we can see that:

- The year is 1976 in the Gregorian (Western) calendar.
- The stem for 1976 is bing.
- The branch for 1976 is chen.
- The stem is always listed first, followed by the branch.
- The stem and branch of the year is used with both the solar and the lunar calendars.
- The flying star for the year is 6 White. Flying stars are used in Feng Shui.
- The annual flying star is only used with the solar calendar.
- The start date for this year is January 31st, 1976 if you are using the *lunar* calendar. You can find this as the first day of the first lunar month. There will be more details on this under the month explanation.
- If you are using the *twenty-four solar terms* (the Chinese solar calendar), the first day of this year is February 5th, 1976. This will also receive more explanation below.

YEAR: 1976		Bing Chen	6 White	
	1ST MONTH Geng Yin	2ND MONTH Xin Mao	3RD MONTH Ren Chen	4TH MONTH Gui Si
1	1/31 Ren Wu	3/1 Ren Zi	3/31 Ren Wu	4/29 Xin Hai
2	2/1 Gui Wei	3/2 Gui Chou	4/1 Gui Wei	4/30 Ren Zi
3	2/2 Jia Shen	3/3 Jia Yin	4/2 Jia Shen	5/1 Gui Chou
4	2/3 Yi You	3/4 Yi Mao	4/3 Yi You	5/2 Jia Yin
5	2/4 Bing Xu	3/5 Bing Chen	4/4 Bing Xu	5/3 Yi Mao
6	2/5 Ding Hai	3/6 Ding Si	4/5 Ding Hai	Bing 5/4 Chen
7	2/6 Wu Zi	3/7 Wu Wu	4/6 Wu Zi	5/5 Ding Si

Notice that towards the end of the Chinese year, we go to the next year in the Western calendar. Under the 11th month of the 1976 table, it says “1976 – 1977,” because the Western new year comes in the 11th month of the Chinese calendar. Any dates from January 1st, 1977 until the next Chinese year still are considered part of 1976 in the Chinese calendar.

10TH MONTH Ji Hai	11TH MONTH Geng Zi	12TH MONTH Xin Chou	
Ding 11/21 Chou	1976 - 1977 12/21 Ding Wei	1/19 Bing Zi	1
11/22 Wu Yin	12/22 Wu Shen	Ding 1/20 Chou	2
11/23 Ji Mao	12/23 Ji You	1/21 Wu Yin	3

The stem and the branch for a year are easy to calculate. If you know the stem and branch for any year, you can count up or down through the cycle of sixty to calculate the stem and branch for any other year. Below is a table covering the years 1924 through 2043. Leap years (in the Western calendar) are marked with an asterisk.

To review: The time between January 1st and the Chinese new year belongs to the previous year. For example, January 28th of 1995 receives the stem and branch of 1994 because it fell in the 12th month of the previous year in the Chinese calendar. However, to know when the Chinese year changes, you must know if you are referring to the *lunar* or the *solar* aspect of the Chinese calendar. For example, one type of Chinese astrology called Ziwei Doushu uses the lunar aspect of the calendar. Another type of Chinese astrology, four pillars, as well as fengshui and day selection, use the solar aspect. The solar new year is always around February 4th or 5th. However, the lunar new year moves around in January and February. The reasoning for this will be explained below.

CYCLE OF 60		YEARS		CYCLE OF 60		YEARS	
1	Jia Zi	1924*	1984*	31	Jia Wu	1954	2014
2	Yi Chou	1925	1985	32	Yi Wei	1955	2015
3	Bing Yin	1926	1986	33	Bing Shen	1956*	2016*
4	Ding Mao	1927	1987	34	Ding You	1957	2017
5	Wu Chen	1928*	1988*	35	Wu Xu	1958	2018
6	Ji Si	1929	1989	36	Ji Hai	1959	2019
7	Geng Wu	1930	1990	37	Geng Zi	1960*	2020*
8	Xin Wei	1931	1991	38	Xin Chou	1961	2021
9	Ren Shen	1932*	1992*	39	Ren Yin	1962	2022
10	Gui You	1933	1993	40	Gui Mao	1963	2023
11	Jia Xu	1934	1994	41	Jia Chen	1964*	2024*
12	Yi Hai	1935	1995	42	Yi Si	1965	2025
13	Bing Zi	1936*	1996*	43	Bing Wu	1966	2026
14	Ding Chou	1937	1997	44	Ding Wei	1967	2027
15	Wu Yin	1938	1998	45	Wu Shen	1968*	2028*
16	Ji Mao	1939	1999	46	Ji You	1969	2029
17	Geng Chen	1940*	2000*	47	Geng Xu	1970	2030
18	Xin Si	1941	2001	48	Xin Hai	1971	2031
19	Ren Wu	1942	2002	49	Ren Zi	1972*	2032*
20	Gui Wei	1943	2003	50	Gui Chou	1973	2033
21	Jia Shen	1944*	2004*	51	Jia Yin	1974	2034
22	Yi You	1945	2005	52	Yi Mao	1975	2035
23	Bing Xu	1946	2006	53	Bing Chen	1976*	2036*
24	Ding Hai	1947	2007	54	Ding Si	1977	2037
25	Wu Zi	1948*	2008*	55	Wu Wu	1978	2038
26	Ji Chou	1949	2009	56	Ji Wei	1979	2039
27	Geng Yin	1950	2010	57	Geng Shen	1980*	2040*
28	Xin Mao	1951	2011	58	Xin You	1981	2041
29	Ren Chen	1952*	2012*	59	Ren Xu	1982	2042
30	Gui Si	1953	2013	60	Gui Hai	1983	2043

* Leap year

One shortcut for knowing the stem of a year is as follows: since there are ten stems, a stem repeats every ten years. Years ending in '4' in the Gregorian calendar (1974, 1984, 1994, etc.) all have the stem jia. But once again, make sure that the date in question is after the Chinese new year. Otherwise, it belongs to the previous Chinese year.

Stem	Year ends in
Jia	4
Yi	5
Bing	6
Ding	7
Wu	8
Ji	9
Geng	0
Xin	1
Ren	2
Gui	3

There is also a formula to find the year branch. For years between 1900 and 1999, it is as follows:

Take the last two digits of the year.

Add 1.

Divide by 12.

Take the remainder. (If the remainder is 0, then call it 12.)

The branch with this number is the year branch.

Be sure date falls after Chinese new year.

For example, 1963: The last 2 digits are 63. Adding 1 makes 64. Dividing by 12 makes 5 with a remainder of 4. The 4th branch is mao. 1963 was a gui mao year.

For years from 2000 until 2099, use the above formula, but instead of adding 1, add 5.

For example, 2020: The last 2 digits are 20. Adding 5 makes 25. Dividing by 12 makes 2 with a remainder of 1. The 1st branch is zi. 2020 will be a geng zi year.

Quiz 7: Luni-Solar Calendar, and Year

1. The Chinese calendar is based on
 - a. the sun b. the moon c. both d. neither

2. To keep the lunar calendar adjusted
 - a. a leap day is added periodically
 - b. a leap month is added periodically
 - c. there is no need to adjust the lunar calendar

3. If 2020 is a geng zi year, what is 2021?

4. What stem goes with a year ending in 5, such as 2005?

5. Your client was born June 10th, 1973. What are the stem and branch of his birth year?

6. Another client was born on January 5th, 1968. What are the stem and branch of her birth year?

7. Using the formula for calculation the branch of years from 2000 to 2099, find the branch for 2053. Then figure out the stem.

Quiz 7 Answers

1. The Chinese calendar is based on
a. the sun b. the moon c. both d. neither

Answer: c. both

2. To keep the lunar calendar adjusted
a. a leap day is added periodically
b. a leap month is added periodically
c. there is no need to adjust the lunar calendar

Answer: b. a leap month is added periodically

3. If 2020 is a geng zi year, what is 2021?

Answer: xin chou

4. What stem goes with a year ending in 5, such as 2005?

Answer: yi

5. Your client was born June 10th, 1973. What are the stem and branch of his birth year?

Answer: gui chou

6. Another client was born on January 5th, 1968. What are the stem and branch of her birth year?

Answer: ding wei. Since this person was born before either the solar or the lunar new year, we must use the stem and branch of 1967.

7. Using the formula for calculation the branch of years from 2000 to 2099, find the branch for 2053. Then figure out the stem.

Answer:

Last 2 digits: 53

Add 5: 58

Divide by 12: 4 with a remainder of 10

10 = you

year ends in 3 = gui stem

2053 is a gui you year.

Months: The Lunar Aspect of the Chinese Calendar

As for the lunar aspect of the Chinese calendar, one year consists of 12 or 13 lunar months. A lunar month begins on the day of the new moon. The new moon is the phase of the moon occurring when it passes between the earth and the sun and is invisible or visible only as a narrow crescent at sunset.

The full moon takes place on the 15th day of the lunar month.

A short lunar month is 29 days and a long lunar month is 30 days. This is because it takes about 29-1/2 days for the moon to complete one cycle from new to full and back to new again, from the perspective of planet earth.

When using the lunar calendar, it is easy to know the phase of the moon: On the first, it is new. From the 2nd to the 14th, it is waxing. On the 15th, it is full. From the 16th through the 29th or 30th, the moon is waning.

A leap month is added about seven times in 19 years in order to keep the calendar 'in accord with heaven.' Certain solar events must always take place at specific times in the lunar calendar, e.g., the winter solstice must always take place in the 11th lunar month. When a leap month is added, it must be put in the place that will keep the solstices, equinoxes, and new years day within the correct time frame.

As for the leap months, there are different ways to deal with them in Chinese astrology. This will be discussed in other classes, when it is relevant.

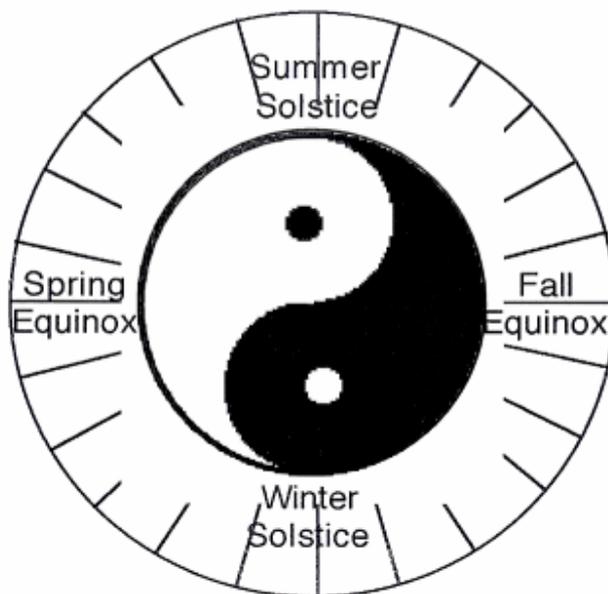
The Solar Aspect of the Chinese Calendar also known as the Twenty-Four Solar Terms

The twenty-four solar terms (二十四節氣 er4shi2si4 jie2qi4) are twenty-four periods of 15 or 16 days, making up one year. They are defined by solar markers such as the solstices and equinoxes. They are actually twenty-four equal divisions of the sun's ecliptic. Each term is 15 degrees of longitude, measured along the horizon. They are also associated with the 24 compass directions, used in fengshui.

Solstice: Either of two times of the year when the sun is at its greatest distance from the celestial equator. The summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere occurs about June 21, when the sun is in the zenith at the tropic of Cancer; the winter solstice occurs about December 21, when the sun is over the tropic of Capricorn. The summer solstice is the longest day of the year and the winter solstice is the shortest.

Equinox: Either of the two times during a year when the sun crosses the celestial equator and when the length of day and night are approximately equal; the vernal equinox or the autumnal equinox.

The 24 Solar Terms



The twenty-four solar terms are:

THE TWENTY-FOUR SOLAR TERMS				START DATES	MONTH
TERM	PINYIN	MEANING			
1	立春	Li Chun	Spring Commences	Feb 4-5	First
2	雨水	Yu Shui	Rain Water	Feb 19-20	
3	驚蟄	Jing Zhi	Insects Awaken	Mar 5-6	Second
4	春分	Chun Fen	Spring Equinox	Mar 21-22	
5	清明	Qing Ming	Pure Brightness	Apr 4-6	Third
6	穀雨	Gu Yu	Grain Rain	Apr 20-21	
7	立夏	Li Xia	Summer Commences	May 5-6	Fourth
8	小滿	Xiao Man	Grain Sprouting	May 21-22	
9	芒種	Mang Zhong	Grain in Ear	Jun 5-7	Fifth
10	夏至	Xia Zhi	Summer Solstice	Jun 21-22	
11	小暑	Xiao Shu	Little Heat	Jul 7-8	Sixth
12	大暑	Da Shu	Great Heat	Jul 23-24	
13	立秋	Li Qiu	Autumn Commences	Aug 7-8	Seventh
14	處暑	Chu Shu	Heat Finishes	Aug 23-24	
15	白露	Bai Lu	Clear Dew	Sep 7-9	Eighth
16	秋分	Qiu Fen	Autumn Equinox	Sep 23-24	
17	寒露	Han Lu	Cold Dew	Oct 8-9	Ninth
18	霜降	Shuang Jiang	Frost Descends	Oct 23-24	
19	立冬	Li Dong	Winter Commences	Nov 7-8	Tenth
20	小雪	Xiao Xue	Little Snow	Nov 22-23	
21	大雪	Da Xue	Great Snow	Dec 7-8	Eleventh
22	冬至	Dong Zhi	Winter Solstice	Dec 22-23	
23	小寒	Xiao Han	Little Cold	Jan 5-6	Twelfth
24	大寒	Da Han	Great Cold	Jan 20-21	

The dates (in our Western calendar) of these solar terms vary within a day or two because our calendar adds a leap day every four years.

Within each month, there are two solar terms. The first one is called a ‘jie,’ and the second one is called a ‘qi.’ The twelve jie are also called monthly festivals: these appear toward the beginning (between the 4th and the 9th day) of the Western month. These are the first day of each of the twelve solar months. The jie are the odd numbered solar terms, and the qi are the even numbered solar terms in the above table. The jie are more important as they are used as the beginning of the solar months. The twelve festivals or jie are listed below:

PINYIN	MEANING	STARTS	MONTH	BRANCH
Li Chun	Spring Commences	Feb 4-5	First	Yin
Jing Zhi	Insects Awaken	Mar 5-6	Second	Mao
Qing Ming	Pure Brightness	Apr 4-6	Third	Chen
Li Xia	Summer Commences	May 5-6	Fourth	Si
Mang Zhong	Grain in Ear	Jun 5-7	Fifth	Wu
Xiao Shu	Little Heat	Jul 7-8	Sixth	Wei
Li Qiu	Autumn Commences	Aug 7-8	Seventh	Shen
Bai Lu	Clear Dew	Sep 7-9	Eight	You
Han Lu	Cold Dew	Oct 8-9	Ninth	Xu
Li Dong	Winter Commences	Nov 7-8	Tenth	Hai
Da Xue	Great Snow	Dec 7-8	Eleventh	Zi
Xiao Han	Little Cold	Jan 5-6	Twelfth	Chou

Li Chun is the first day of spring, and also the *solar* Chinese new year. It falls on February 4th or 5th every year. It is the first of the twelve monthly festivals. When using the Chinese solar calendar, consider a date before February 4th as belonging to the previous year.

There is never a leap month in the Chinese solar calendar. This is because the solar year is divided evenly into 12 or 24 divisions.

Think about this like a pie. If the pie is already cut into eight sections, but seven people show up, there is a remainder. Something must be done with the leftover pie. In some ways, this resembles the lunar calendar. However, if the host waits until the guests show up, and then divides the pie into the exact number of slices so that each guest has an equal share, there is no remainder. This is more like the solar calendar.

These twelve festivals or solar months each have a stem and branch. The branch for any given month is the same each year. For example, the fourth month, beginning on May 5th or 6th, always has the branch, si. However, the stem changes from year to year. See below.

Quiz 8: Lunar and Solar Months

1. A Chinese *lunar* year has
a. 12 months b. 13 months c. a or b
2. A Chinese solar year has
a. 12 months b. 13 months c. a or b
3. What day is the Chinese solar new year?
a. January 1st b. the winter solstice
c. February 4th or 5th d. varies from year to year
4. Li xia, summer commences, begins which month in the Chinese calendar?
a. 2nd b. 3rd c. 4th d. 5th
5. Each solar Chinese month begins on the
a. jie b. qi c. neither
6. On the 18th day of a lunar month, the moon is
a. new b. waxing c. full d. waning

Quiz 8 Answers

1. A Chinese *lunar* year has
a. 12 months b. 13 months c. a or b

Answer: c. Some years have 12 months and leap years have 13 months in the lunar calendar.

2. A Chinese solar year has
a. 12 months b. 13 months c. a or b

Answer: a. always 12 months. There are no leap months in the solar calendar.

3. What day is the Chinese solar new year?
a. January 1st b. the winter solstice
c. February 4th or 5th d. varies from year to year

Answer: c. February 4th or 5th

4. Li xia, summer commences, begins which month in the Chinese calendar?
a. 2nd b. 3rd c. 4th d. 5th

Answer: c. 4th

5. Each solar Chinese month begins on the
a. jie b. qi c. neither

Answer: a. jie

6. On the 18th day of a lunar month, the moon is
a. new b. waxing c. full d. waning

Answer: d. waning

The Stem and Branch of the Month

The table below shows the branches for the twelve months. The same branch is assigned to a month, whether it is the lunar or the solar aspect of the calendar that is being discussed. For example, the branch of the fifth month is always wu in either calendar. The difference is that in a given year, the start date of the month will vary depending on whether the lunar or the solar calendar is being used.

BRANCH	ELEMENT	BRANCH NUMBER	MONTH NUMBER
Zi	water	1	11th
Chou	earth	2	12th
Yin	wood	3	1st
Mao	wood	4	2nd
Chen	earth	5	3rd
Si	fire	6	4th
Wu	fire	7	5th
Wei	earth	8	6th
Shen	metal	9	7th
You	metal	10	8th
Xu	earth	11	9th
Hai	water	12	10th

The 1st month of the year is yin, the 3rd branch. The branch yin corresponds with yang wood. Wood is the element associated with spring. The Chinese new year is associated with spring, the time of birth and new beginnings.

Seasonal beginnings are calculated differently as well. In the west, the solstices and equinoxes are considered the first day of a season. The Chinese consider these astronomical events to be the midpoint of a season. Therefore, Chinese spring begins about six weeks prior to Western spring. The seasons in the Chinese calendar will be discussed below.

The stem for a month will vary from year to year, as there are ten stems and twelve months. The month stem is found using the year stem and the month branch. Find the number or branch of the month in question in the month columns on the left. Then take the year stem and find the correct column on the right. The intersection of the month row and the year stem column is your answer.

THE MONTH STEMS AND BRANCHES						
MONTH		YEAR STEM				
NUMBER	BRANCH	Jia or Ji	Yi or Geng	Bing or Xin	Ding or Ren	Wu or Gui
1	Yin	Bing Yin	Wu Yin	Geng Yin	Ren Yin	Jia Yin
2	Mao	Ding Mao	Ji Mao	Xin Mao	Gui Mao	Yi Mao
3	Chen	Wu Chen	Geng Chen	Ren Chen	Jia Chen	Bing Chen
4	Si	Ji Si	Xin Si	Gui Si	Yi Si	Ding Si
5	Wu	Geng Wu	Ren Wu	Jia Wu	Bing Wu	Wu Wu
6	Wei	Xin Wei	Gui Wei	Yi Wei	Ding Wei	Ji Wei
7	Shen	Ren Shen	Jia Shen	Bing Shen	Wu Shen	Geng Shen
8	You	Gui You	Yi You	Ding You	Ji You	Xin You
9	Xu	Jia Xu	Bing Xu	Wu Xu	Geng Xu	Ren Xu
10	Hai	Yi Hai	Ding Hai	Ji Hai	Xin Hai	Gui Hai
11	Zi	Bing Zi	Wu Zi	Geng Zi	Ren Zi	Jia Zi
12	Chou	Ding Chou	Ji Chou	Xin Chou	Gui Chou	Yi Chou

For example, what is the stem of a shen (7th) month in a gui you year? We follow the 7th month row over to the last column. This last column is for a wu or a gui stem year. Therefore, it is the column to use in a gui you year. We find that it is a geng shen month.

Note that the year stems in each column are in the relationship of the five combinations. For example, jia and ji combine with each other, as jia is yang wood and ji is yin earth. See the section on the five combinations above.

If you want to memorize the above table, memorize the stem associated with the third branch, yin, which is the first month. If you know the stem of yin, you can calculate the stem for any month of the year. This is called the *Five Tiger Method*, as the branch yin is associated with the tiger.

The Months in the Ten-Thousand Year Calendar

As you have just learned, there are two types of ‘months’ in the Chinese calendar: lunar and solar.

a. Lunar Months

- In the *lunar* calendar, there are 12 months most years, but sometimes there is a leap month.
- Each of the 12 (or 13) *lunar* months are organized in a column for each year table.
- The Chinese months are called ‘1st Month,’ ‘2nd, Month,’ etc.
- Each regular month has its own stem and branch.
- A leap month does not have its own stem and branch. How you treat a leap month is determined by the intended use of the information, and by the philosophy of your teacher.

Below, you can see that there is a leap month between the 8th and 9th lunar month in 1976. It begins on September 24th of the Western calendar.

7TH MONTH Bing Shen	8TH MONTH Ding You	LEAP MONTH	9TH MONTH Wu Xu	10TH MONTH Ji Hai
Geng 7/27 Chen	8/25 Ji You	9/24 Ji Mao	10/23 Wu Shen	Ding 11/21 Chou
7/28 Xin Si	8/26 Geng Xu	Geng 9/25 Chen	10/24 Ji You	11/22 Wu Yin
7/29 Ren Wu	8/27 Xin Hai	9/26 Xin Si	10/25 Geng Xu	11/23 Ji Mao

b. Solar Months

- Every year has 12 Chinese ‘solar’ months based on the 12 ‘jie’ of the 24 jie-qi (or 24 Solar Terms).
- There are no solar leap months.
- The solar months begin on the date listed in the ‘jie’ row, near the bottom of the table.
- Note that the jie are always highlighted in the calendar.
- The time listed is for 120° east. It is the exact time of the beginning of the jie, based on the solstices and the equinoxes.

If you follow the column for the first month down to the bottom of the table for 1976, you will see that 'Li Chun' is given a date of February 5th, and a time of 12:40 am. This is in the row labeled 'Jie.' This is the beginning of the first solar month of the Chinese calendar, and is therefore the Chinese solar new year. In the solar calendar, the annual stem and branch begin on this date. (The table below has some rows deleted to simplify the illustration.)

YEAR: 1976				
Bing Chen		6 White		
	1ST MONTH Geng Yin	2ND MONTH Xin Mao	3RD MONTH Ren Chen	4TH MONTH Gui Si
1	1/31 Ren Wu	3/1 Ren Zi	3/31 Ren Wu	4/29 Xin Hai
2	2/1 Gui Wei	3/2 Gui Chou	4/1 Gui Wei	4/30 Ren Zi
3	2/2 Jia Shen	3/3 Jia Yin	4/2 Jia Shen	5/1 Gui Chou
4	2/3 Yi You	3/4 Yi Mao	4/3 Yi You	5/2 Jia Yin
5	2/4 Bing Xu	3/5 Bing Chen	4/4 Bing Xu	5/3 Yi Mao
6	2/5 Ding Hai	3/6 Ding Si	4/5 Ding Hai	Bing 5/4 Chen
7	2/6 Wu Zi	3/7 Wu Wu	4/6 Wu Zi	5/5 Ding Si
8	2/7 Ji Chou	3/8 Ji Wei	4/7 Ji Chou	5/6 Wu Wu
29	2/28 Geng Xu	Geng 3/29 Chen	4/28 Geng Xu	5/27 Ji Mao
30	2/29 Xin Hai	3/30 Xin Si		Geng 5/28 Chen
	5 Yellow	4 Green	3 Jade	2 Black
Jie	Li Chun 2/5 12:40a	Jing Zhi 3/5 6:48p	Qing Ming 4/4 11:47p	Li Xia 5/5 5:15p
Qi	Yu Shui 2/19 8:40p	Chun Fen 3/20 7:50p	Gu Yu 4/20 7:03a	Xiao Man 5/21 6:21a

In 1976, February 5th occurs on this page of the calendar. However, in some years, the solar new year will be on the previous page. (This will be discussed below.)

You can see that the second solar month begins on March 5th (Jing Zhi). The third solar month begins on April 4th (Qing Ming).

Also notice, a flying star is named in the row above the jie. The flying star for the first solar month is 5 yellow. It takes effect on February 5th. The flying star for the 2nd solar month is 4 Green. It takes effect on March 5th.

- When using the solar calendar, the stem and branch in the month column above will take effect on the date listed in the ‘jie’ row of the same column.
- The flying star listed in the same column also takes effect during the same time period.
- The flying stars are not used with the lunar calendar.
- In some months, the first day of the solar month is in the same column as its lunar month. In other months, the first day may fall in an adjacent month column.

8TH MONTH Ding You	LEAP MONTH	9TH MONTH Wu Xu	10TH MONTH Ji Hai	11TH MONTH Geng Zi	12TH MONTH Xin Chou
				1976 - 1977	
8/25 Ji You	9/24 Ji Mao	10/23 Wu Shen	Ding 11/21 Chou	12/21 Ding Wei	1/19 Bing Zi
8/26 Geng Xu	Geng 9/25 Chen	10/24 Ji You	11/22 Wu Yin	12/22 Wu Shen	Ding 1/20 Chou
9/6 Xin You	10/6 Xin Mao	Geng 11/4 Shen	12/3 Ji Chou	1/2 Ji Wei	1/31 Wu Zi
9/7 Ren Xu	Ren 10/7 Chen	11/5 Xin You	12/4 Geng Yin	Geng 1/3 Shen	2/1 Ji Chou
9/8 Gui Hai	10/8 Gui Si	11/6 Ren Xu	12/5 Xin Mao	1/4 Xin You	2/2 Geng Yin
9/9 Jia Zi	10/9 Jia Wu	11/7 Gui Hai	Ren 12/6 Chen	1/5 Ren Xu	2/3 Xin Mao
9/10 Yi Chou	10/10 Yi Wei	11/8 Jia Zi	12/7 Gui Si	1/6 Gui Hai	2/4 Ren Chen
9/11 Bing Yin	Bing 10/11 Shen	11/9 Yi Chou	12/8 Jia Wu	1/7 Jia Zi	2/5 Gui Si
7 Red		6 White	5 Yellow	4 Green	3 Jade
Bai Lu 9/7 8:28p		Han Lu 10/8 11:58a	Li Dong 11/7 2:59p	Da Xue 12/7 7:41a	Xiao Han 1/5 6:51p
Qiu Fen 9/23 5:48a		Shuang Jiang 10/23 2:58p	Xiao Xue 11/22 12:22p	Dong Zhi 12/22 1:35a	Da Han 1/20 12:15p

In the above abbreviated table (still for 1976), note that September 7th occurs in the same month column where it is named as the jie.

The leap month has no information for the jieqi because there are no leap months in the solar calendar. However, in the leap month column, you will find October 8th highlighted, since it is the jie for the 9th solar month. This month will have wu xu as its stem and branch and 6 White as its flying star. From this point on, the jie do not fall in their own month column.

This is because the start date of a month varies between the lunar and solar calendar. Sometimes the lunar month begins first, and sometimes the solar month begins first. But the stem and branch, and the month number are the same, regardless of which calendar is being used.

Notice that February 4th, 1977, is the beginning of the first solar month of 1977, and therefore the solar new year, falls at the end of the last lunar month of 1976.

Summary of the Lunar and Solar Aspects of the Calendar

Lunar Chinese Lunar and Solar Calendars		
	Lunar Months	Solar Terms
Follows:	Moon	Sun
Based on:	phases of the moon	equinoxes, solstices, seasons
Length:	29 or 30 days	15 or 16 days
Number per year:	12 or 13	24
Leap Months:	7 times in 19 years	never
Aligned with Western Calendar:	no, not at all	yes, fairly well
Used for:	Ziwei Doushu, Yijing	Fengshui, Four Pillars, Day Selection

Quiz 9: The Stem and Branch of the Month, and the Months in the Ten-Thousand Year Calendar

1. The branch of the 6th month is always
a. si b. wu c. wei d. shen e. you
2. The new year always begins with which month?
a. zi b. chou c. yin d. mao e. chen
3. Client A was born on June 10th, 1973. What is the stem and branch of his month of birth? Look it up in your *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar*.
4. Client B was born on January 5th, 1968. You want to do a Ziwei Doushu reading, which uses the lunar calendar. What is the stem and branch of his month of birth? Look it up in your *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar*.
5. Now Client B wants a Four Pillars reading, which uses the solar calendar. What is the stem and branch of her month of birth? Is it the same? Check your *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar* again.
6. In any ding year, what is the stem of a you month?
7. In 2005, when does the 5th *solar* month begin?
8. In 2005, when does the 5th *lunar* month begin?
9. In 1987, when does the leap month begin?

Quiz 9 Answers

1. The branch of the 6th month is always
a. si b. wu **c. wei** d. shen e. you
2. The new year always begins with which month?
a. zi b. chou **c. yin** d. mao e. chen

3. Client A was born on June 10th, 1973. What is the stem and branch of his month of birth? Look it up in your *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar*.

Answer: Wu wu. In this case it is the same in both the lunar and the solar calendar.

4. Client B was born on January 5th, 1968. You want to do a Ziwei Doushu reading, which uses the lunar calendar. What is the stem and branch of his month of birth? Look it up in your *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar*.

Answer: Gui chou in the lunar calendar. This is found on the 1967 page because it comes before the Chinese new year.

5. Now Client B wants a Four Pillars reading, which uses the solar calendar. What is the stem and branch of her month of birth? Is it the same? Check your *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar* again.

Answer: Now the birth month is ren zi in the solar calendar. The solar month changes on January 6th. Client B is born on January 5th, so we must use the previous month.

6. In any ding year, what is the stem of a you month?

Answer: ji

7. In 2005, when does the 5th solar month begin?

Answer: June 5th

8. In 2005, when does the 5th lunar month begin?

Answer: June 7th

9. In 1987, when does the leap month begin?

Answer: July 26th

The Day Stem and Branch

The easiest way to find the day stem and branch is to look it up in the *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar*.

- Each day has its own stem and branch. This daily stem and branch is the same in both the lunar and the solar calendar.

For example, January 31st, 1976 is a ren wu day. February 1st is a gui wei day, etc.

YEAR: 1976		Bing Chen	6 White
	1ST MONTH Geng Yin	2ND MONTH Xin Mao	3RD MONTH Ren Chen
1	1/31 Ren Wu	3/1 Ren Zi	3/31 Ren Wu
2	2/1 Gui Wei	3/2 Gui Chou	4/1 Gui Wei
3	2/2 Jia Shen	3/3 Jia Yin	4/2 Jia Shen
26	2/25 Ding Wei	3/26 Ding Chou	4/25 Ding Wei
27	2/26 Wu Shen	3/27 Wu Yin	4/26 Wu Shen
28	2/27 Ji You	3/28 Ji Mao	4/27 Ji You
		Geng	
29	2/28 Geng Xu	3/29 Chen	4/28 Geng Xu
30	2/29 Xin Hai	3/30 Xin Si	

The table above is abbreviated.

What day of the lunar month is it?

- Lunar months have 29 or 30 days.
- The first day of a lunar month is the day following the new moon. This is found in the row with '1' in the far left and right hand columns.
- The 15th day of a lunar month is the full moon day. This is found in the row with '15' in the far left and right hand columns.

To further illustrate: In 1976, shown above, the first and second month have 30 days. The third month has 29 days.

- Each row represents a day of the lunar month.

For example, February 27th is the 28th day of the 1st lunar month. April 2nd is the 3rd day of the 3rd lunar month. Be careful not to confuse the day of the lunar month with the date in the Western calendar.

The day stem and branch can also be calculated in the following way:

STEP 1: Find the DAY NUMBER for the day in question in the table below.

(This number represents the following: The number of days into a year the date falls according to the Gregorian calendar is calculated. The number of days is divided by 60 and the remainder is used. If the day occurs less than 60 days into the year, the number of days itself is used.)

The following table may be used for any year. The left-hand column has the (Western) day of the month. Follow the row over to the column headed by the western month. The number found at the intersection of this row and column is the *Day Number*.

DAY NUMBER CHART												
DAY	MONTH											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	0	31	59	30	0	31	1	32	3	33	4	34
2	1	32	0	31	1	32	2	33	4	34	5	35
3	2	33	1	32	2	33	3	34	5	35	6	36
4	3	34	2	33	3	34	4	35	6	36	7	37
5	4	35	3	34	4	35	5	36	7	37	8	38
6	5	36	4	35	5	36	6	37	8	38	9	39
7	6	37	5	36	6	37	7	38	9	39	10	40
8	7	38	6	37	7	38	8	39	10	40	11	41
9	8	39	7	38	8	39	9	40	11	41	12	42
10	9	40	8	39	9	40	10	41	12	42	13	43
11	10	41	9	40	10	41	11	42	13	43	14	44
12	11	42	10	41	11	42	12	43	14	44	15	45
13	12	43	11	42	12	43	13	44	15	45	16	46
14	13	44	12	43	13	44	14	45	16	46	17	47
15	14	45	13	44	14	45	15	46	17	47	18	48
16	15	46	14	45	15	46	16	47	18	48	19	49
17	16	47	15	46	16	47	17	48	19	49	20	50
18	17	48	16	47	17	48	18	49	20	50	21	51
19	18	49	17	48	18	49	19	50	21	51	22	52
20	19	50	18	49	19	50	20	51	22	52	23	53
21	20	51	19	50	20	51	21	52	23	53	24	54
22	21	52	20	51	21	52	22	53	24	54	25	55
23	22	53	21	52	22	53	23	54	25	55	26	56
24	23	54	22	53	23	54	24	55	26	56	27	57
25	24	55	23	54	24	55	25	56	27	57	28	58
26	25	56	24	55	25	56	26	57	28	58	29	59
27	26	57	25	56	26	57	27	58	29	59	30	0
28	27	58	26	57	27	58	28	59	30	0	31	1
29	28	*	27	58	28	59	29	0	31	1	32	2
30	29	x	28	59	29	0	30	1	32	2	33	3
31	30	x	29	x	30	x	31	2	x	3	x	4

* If, by chance, the date you are looking for is February 29th of a leap year, use February 28th. In Step 4, below, February 29th will be taken into account.

STEP 2: In the following table, find the number for the western year in question.

(This is the number within the cycle of sixty for January 1st of that year.)

Dates between January 1st and February 4th do NOT get moved back to the previous year for this table.

YEAR	#	YEAR	#	YEAR	#	YEAR	#
1924*	16	1954	54	1984*	31	2014	9
1925	22	1955	59	1985	37	2015	14
1926	27	1956*	4	1986	42	2016*	19
1927	32	1957	10	1987	47	2017	25
1928*	37	1958	15	1988*	52	2018	30
1929	43	1959	20	1989	58	2019	35
1930	48	1960*	25	1990	3	2020*	40
1931	53	1961	31	1991	8	2021	46
1932*	58	1962	36	1992*	13	2022	51
1933	4	1963	41	1993	19	2023	56
1934	9	1964*	46	1994	24	2024*	1
1935	14	1965	52	1995	29	2025	7
1936*	19	1966	57	1996*	34	2026	12
1937	25	1967	2	1997	40	2027	17
1938	30	1968*	7	1998	45	2028*	22
1939	35	1969	13	1999	50	2029	28
1940*	40	1970	18	2000*	55	2030	33
1941	46	1971	23	2001	1	2031	38
1942	51	1972*	28	2002	6	2032*	43
1943	56	1973	34	2003	11	2033	49
1944*	1	1974	39	2004*	16	2034	54
1945	7	1975	44	2005	22	2035	59
1946	12	1976*	49	2006	27	2036*	4
1947	17	1977	55	2007	32	2037	10
1948*	22	1978	60	2008*	37	2038	15
1949	28	1979	5	2009	43	2039	20
1950	33	1980*	10	2010	48	2040*	25
1951	38	1981	16	2011	53	2041	31
1952*	43	1982	21	2012*	58	2042	36
1953	49	1983	26	2013	4	2043	41
*Leap Year							

STEP 3: Add the numbers from steps 1 and 2 together.

STEP 4: If the date occurs in a leap year after February 28th, add one to the sum. Otherwise, add 0. Leap years are marked by an asterisk on the table in Step 2.

STEP 5: If the sum is over 60, subtract 60 from it. If the sum is less than 60, use the sum itself.

STEP 6: The result in Step 5 is the number of the day in question within the sixty-day cycle. Look this number up in the following table to find the stem and branch for the day:

CYCLE OF SIXTY			
1	Jia Zi	31	Jia Wu
2	Yi Chou	32	Yi Wei
3	Bing Yin	33	Bing Shen
4	Ding Mao	34	Ding You
5	Wu Chen	35	Wu Xu
6	Ji Si	36	Ji Hai
7	Geng Wu	37	Geng Zi
8	Xin Wei	38	Xin Chou
9	Ren Shen	39	Ren Yin
10	Gui You	40	Gui Mao
11	Jia Xu	41	Jia Chen
12	Yi Hai	42	Yi Si
13	Bing Zi	43	Bing Wu
14	Ding Chou	44	Ding Wei
15	Wu Yin	45	Wu Shen
16	Ji Mao	46	Ji You
17	Geng Chen	47	Geng Xu
18	Xin Si	48	Xin Hai
19	Ren Wu	49	Ren Zi
20	Gui Wei	50	Gui Chou
21	Jia Shen	51	Jia Yin
22	Yi You	52	Yi Mao
23	Bing Xu	53	Bing Chen
24	Ding Hai	54	Ding Si
25	Wu Zi	55	Wu Wu
26	Ji Chou	56	Ji Wei
27	Geng Yin	57	Geng Shen
28	Xin Mao	58	Xin You
29	Ren Chen	59	Ren Xu
30	Gui Si	60	Gui Hai

Example: June 15th, 1997

STEP 1: Find the DAY NUMBER in the table for the day in question: June 15th gets a 45.

STEP 2: Find the number within the cycle of sixty for January 1st of the year in question from the table: 1997 gets a 40.

STEP 3: Add the numbers from steps 1 and 2 together: $45+40=85$

STEP 4: If the date occurs on a leap year after February 28th, add one to the sum.

June 15th is after February 28th, but is not in a leap year. Add 0.

STEP 5: If the sum is over 60, subtract 60 from it: $85-60=25$

STEP 6: The result in Step 5 is the number of the day in question within the sixty day cycle. Look it up in the table to find the stem and branch for the day: 25 is a wu zi day.

Quiz 10: Day Stem and Branch

1. Client A was born on June 10th, 1973. What is the stem and branch of his day of birth?
2. What day of the *lunar* month was Client A born on?
3. Client B was born on January 5th, 1968. What is the stem and branch of her day of birth?
4. What day of the *lunar* month was Client B born on?
5. Your client is planning to open a business on December 15th, 2005. What is the stem and branch for that day?

Quiz 10 Answers

1. Client A was born on June 10th, 1973. What is the stem and branch of his day of birth?

Answer: ding chou

2. What day of the *lunar* month was Client A born on?

Answer: 10th day of the 5th lunar month

3. Client B was born on January 5th, 1968. What is the stem and branch of her day of birth?

Answer: jia xu

4. What day of the *lunar* month was Client B born on?

Answer: 6th day of the 12th lunar month

5. Your client is planning to open a business on December 15th, 2005. What is the stem and branch for that day?

Answer: gui you

Time Periods

The Chinese divide the day into 12 two-hour periods or ‘double hours,’ each associated with one branch. The branch of any given double-hour is always the same from day to day. For example, noon always falls within the wu branch time period. This is illustrated in the table below:

BRANCH	BRANCH NUMBER	DOUBLE HOUR	
Zi	1	23:00-01:00	11pm-1am
Chou	2	01:00-03:00	1-3am
Yin	3	03:00-05:00	3-5am
Mao	4	05:00-07:00	5-7am
Chen	5	07:00-09:00	7-9am
Si	6	09:00-11:00	9-11am
Wu	7	11:00-13:00	11am-1pm
Wei	8	13:00-15:00	1-3pm
Shen	9	15:00-17:00	3-5pm
You	10	17:00-19:00	5-7pm
Xu	11	19:00-21:00	7-9pm
Hai	12	21:00-23:00	9-11pm

Notice that the day starts with the first branch, zi, at 11 pm of the evening before. Therefore, if we are concerned with 11:18 pm on September 16th (Western calendar), we would say the hour is of the first branch, zi, on September 17th. (There is some controversy about this point, but this is what Master Sang finds accurate.)

Always use local time. We do not need to convert the hour to Greenwich Mean Time, Beijing time or any other standard. We are concerned only with the time according to the local position of the sun. The time when the sun is most closely perpendicular overhead (noon) is always wu (午), the 7th hour.

We must consider Daylight Savings Time (DST) if it is in effect. The current law in the United States is that the time moves forward one hour starting at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in April, and returns back to Standard Time at 2 a.m. on the last Sunday in October. Before 1966 there was no federal law regarding Daylight Savings Time, and local governments may or may not have used it. Even today, there are a few states that do not use DST. Most other countries do NOT use it. We correct for Daylight Savings Time by ‘falling back,’ or subtracting one hour from the time.

For example, if it is 4:30 a.m. on a summer day in a location that uses DST, we need to correct the time to 3:30 a.m. This is 'falling back' one hour.

Whether a birth time occurred during DST or not can affect the accuracy of a calculation. Therefore, it is important to know if it was in effect at the time and in the place of birth (when doing astrology) or currently (when doing day selection). A series of books can be used as reference if the status of Daylight Savings Time is not known: *Time Changes in the U.S.A.*, *Time Changes in Canada and Mexico*, *Time Changes in the World*, and various *Time Change Updates*, by Doris Chase Doane. These books are published by the American Federation of Astrologers, Inc., P.O. Box 22040, 6535 S. Rural Road, Tempe AZ 85285-2040. Sometimes they can be found on amazon.com.

A calculation can be done to make local time more accurate, based on longitude. This calculation does include the use of Greenwich Mean Time, but only as a tool to derive more accurate local time. This will be briefly discussed below.

The branches (not the stems) repeat for the hours on a daily basis. For example, 6 a.m. is always during a mao branch time. The sixty-hour cycle (using the stems and branches combined) repeats every five days because sixty 2-hour periods make 120 hours, or five days.

The stem of a double-hour will change from day to day. You must know the stem of the day in order to find the stem of the hour. In the table that follows, there are five columns on the right, one for each of the five days it takes to complete a sixty-hour cycle. The same column is used for a jia stem day and a ji stem day, an yi stem day and geng stem day, etc.

THE DOUBLE-HOUR STEMS AND BRANCHES						
DOUBLE-HOUR		DAY STEM and BRANCH				
TIME	BRANCH	Jia or Ji	Yi or Geng	Bing or Xin	Ding or Ren	Wu or Gui
11p-1a	Zi	Jia Zi	Bing Zi	Wu Zi	Geng Zi	Ren Zi
1-3a	Chou	Yi Chou	Ding Chou	Ji Chou	Xin Chou	Gui Chou
3-5a	Yin	Bing Yin	Wu Yin	Geng Yin	Ren Yin	Jia Yin
5-7a	Mao	Ding Mao	Ji Mao	Xin Mao	Gui Mao	Yi Mao
7-9a	Chen	Wu Chen	Geng Chen	Ren Chen	Jia Chen	Bing Chen
9-11a	Si	Ji Si	Xin Si	Gui Si	Yi Si	Ding Si
11a-1p	Wu	Geng Wu	Ren Wu	Jia Wu	Bing Wu	Wu Wu
1-3p	Wei	Xin Wei	Gui Wei	Yi Wei	Ding Wei	Ji Wei
3-5p	Shen	Ren Shen	Jia Shen	Bing Shen	Wu Shen	Geng Shen
5-7p	You	Gui You	Yi You	Ding You	Ji You	Xin You
7-9p	Xu	Jia Xu	Bing Xu	Wu Xu	Geng Xu	Ren Xu
9-11p	Hai	Yi Hai	Ding Hai	Ji Hai	Xin Hai	Gui Hai

Note: Correct for Daylight Savings Time, if necessary.

For example, if you want to find the stem and branch for 4 p.m. on a certain day, you must first calculate the stem for that day. If it is a xin stem day, then you would look in the third column from the right in the above table, the one that is labeled bing or xin. Follow that column down until you find the row that is labeled 3-5p. It says that 4 p.m. on a xin day is bing shen. Remember, 4 p.m. is always a shen branch hour, regardless of the day stem.

Another example: 8:26 a.m. on a geng wu day. Follow the 'Yi or Geng' column down because geng is the day stem. Follow the 7-9 a.m. row across because 8:26 a.m. is the time. The two-hour time period in which 8:26 a.m. falls on a geng stem day is geng chen.

If you want to learn the above table by heart, you can memorize the stem of the first hour (zi) for each of the five days. If you know the stem of the first hour, you can calculate the stem for any hour of the day. This is called the Five Zi Method because the first hour always has the zi branch.

The Accuracy of Time

The world is divided into 24 time zones. If there were a clock for every time zone together in the same room, they would each show a different hour, but the minute hand of the clocks would all be in the same position. This is not the reality of sun time. The time according to the sun varies by minutes within a time zone. We just agree to make the whole time zone the same time to avoid confusion, and to have a standard time within a geographic area.

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is the standard time that all zones base their clocks on. We can calculate from Greenwich Mean Time to improve accuracy because it is the one place that uses local sun time. All other time zones are derived from Greenwich Mean Time, not on their own local sun time.

One can calculate local sun time, including minutes, using the longitude of a location. Each degree of longitude is equal to four minutes of time. Fifteen degrees of longitude equals one hour of time difference. Hence, most time zones are 15 degrees wide.

In general, the Chinese are not as obsessed with this level of accuracy as people from the West. For example, if, in an astrology reading, a time is border-line, they will simply make two charts and compare them to the person's character and situation. This is reasonable, as we cannot be sure the birth time was accurately recorded in the first place.

Quiz 11: Time Period

1. What branch covers 10:15 a.m.?

2. If the time is 10:15 a.m. in Daylight Savings Time, what time do you use?
a. 10:15 a.m. b. 9:15 a.m. c. 11:15 a.m.

3. To have the correct time we generally use
a. Beijing Time
b. Greenwich Mean Time
c. local standard time

4. On a xin stem day, what is the stem and branch for 9:30 p.m.?

5. On a wu stem day, what is the stem and branch for noon?

6. If a birth time is borderline between two time periods, what should be done, generally?
 - a. find a more precise way to calculate the time
 - b. try to find someone in the family who remembers better
 - c. make two charts and see which fits the client better
 - d. cannot do a chart on this type of person

Quiz 11 Answers: Time Period

1. What branch covers 10:15 a.m.?

Answer: si

2. If the time is 10:15 a.m. in Daylight Savings Time, what time do you use?

- a. 10:15 a.m.
- b. 9:15 a.m.
- c. 11:15 a.m.

Answer: b. 9:15 a.m.

3. To have the correct time we generally use

- a. Beijing Time
- b. Greenwich Mean Time
- c. local standard time

Answer: c. local standard time

4. On a xin stem day, what is the stem and branch for 9:30 p.m.?

Answer: ji hai

5. On a wu stem day, what is the stem and branch for noon?

Answer: wu wu

6. If a birth time is borderline between two time periods, what should be done, generally?

- e. find a more precise way to calculate the time
- f. try to find someone in the family who remembers better
- g. make two charts and see which fits the client better
- h. cannot do a chart on this type of person

Answer: c. make two charts and see which fits the client better

A Chinese View of the Four Seasons

The Chinese view the seasons in a different light than we do in the West. In the West, we say that the first day of spring is on March 21st, the spring equinox. Summer begins on June 21st, the summer solstice. Fall begins on September 23rd, the autumn equinox. Winter begins on December 22nd, the winter solstice. These dates are approximate, and may vary by a day, depending on the exact time of the solstices or equinoxes in any given year.

In China, the seasons were traditionally calculated with the solstices and equinoxes as the midpoint of the season, not the beginning. This makes a Chinese season arrive approximately six weeks earlier than it does in the West. For example of this calculation: there are 89 days between December 22nd (the winter solstice) and March 21st (the spring equinox) in a non-leap year. Half of 89 is 44 or 45 days. February 4th, considered to be the first day of spring, is 45 days after the winter solstice. The same calculation may be made for the other seasons.

THE SEASONS	First day of the season in:	
	CHINA	THE WEST
SPRING	February 4th	March 21st
SUMMER	May 5th	June 21st
FALL	August 7th	September 23rd
WINTER	November 7th	December 22nd

As you already know, spring belongs to the wood element, summer belongs to fire, fall belongs to metal, and winter belongs to water. But what about earth?

If the average year of 365 days is divided by 5 (for the five elements), you get 73 days. If you divide a year by four seasons, you get about 91 days per season. The difference between 91 days per season and 73 days per element is 18 days. The last 18 days of each season, then, is a buffer period relating to the earth element. You can see this in the following table:

THE SEASONS WITH EARTH BUFFER IN BETWEEN		
SEASON	STARTS	ELEMENT
SPRING	February 4th	Wood
earth buffer	April 17th	Earth
SUMMER	May 5th	Fire
earth buffer	July 20th	Earth
FALL	August 7th	Metal
earth buffer	October 20th	Earth
WINTER	November 7th	Water
earth buffer	January 17th	Earth

This concept is similar to the element of the branches for the twelve months:

MONTH	BRANCH	ELEMENT	SEASON
1st	Yin	Wood	Spring
2nd	Mao	Wood	
3rd	Chen	Earth	
4th	Si	Fire	Summer
5th	Wu	Fire	
6th	Wei	Earth	
7th	Shen	Metal	Autumn
8th	You	Metal	
9th	Xu	Earth	
10th	Hai	Water	Winter
11th	Zi	Water	
12th	Chou	Earth	

As you can see in the above table, the first two months in any season have the same element as the season. The third month of a season is an earth buffer month. This is the most common way we will view the seasons.

There is a second way that earth may be dealt with, as far as the seasons go: sometimes the Chinese used five seasons, adding ‘late summer’ as an independent season related to the earth element. This was related to the climate in China:

Wood relates to wind, which is predominant in the spring.

Fire relates to heat, which is predominant in the summer.

Earth relates to dampness, which is predominant as rain in the ‘late summer.’

Metal relates to dryness, which is predominant in the autumn.

Water relates to cold, which is predominant in winter.

Once again, the average year of 365 days divided by 5 (for five seasons) is 73 days. Now we have five consecutive seasons of 73 days each. This gives us the following (the calculation is based on the solar terms):

THE FIVE SEASONS (including Late Summer)			
SEASON	STARTS	CALCULATION	ELEMENT
SPRING	January 20th	1st day of Great Cold	Wood
SUMMER	April 3rd	13th day after Spring Equinox	Fire
LATE SUMMER	June 16th	10th day after Grain in Ear	Earth
FALL	August 30th	7th day after Heat Finishes	Metal
WINTER	November 11th	4th day after Winter Commences	Water

These dates come out of the *Yellow Emperor’s Inner Canon, Elementary Questions*, a Han dynasty medical classic.

While the dates of the Chinese seasons may seem quite early to the Westerner, remember how early the first flowers, such as crocus, appear as the first sign of spring. Think how soon the first really warm day comes, when you can go outside without a jacket; surely this is the genesis of summer. The fall harvest can begin at the end of August or beginning of September. And in many places the first frost of winter shows up in November. The Chinese appear more attune to the first sign of a season, than to fullness of it, as we do in the West.

Quiz 12: The Seasons

1. The equinoxes and solstices are
 - a. at the beginning of a Chinese season
 - b. in the middle of a Chinese season
 - c. at the end of a Chinese season
 - d. unrelated to the Chinese seasons

2. In the Chinese calendar, in what season is June 1st?
 - a. spring
 - b. summer
 - c. autumn
 - d. winter

3. What is the earth season?
 - a. in between
 - b. late summer
 - c. a + b
 - d. none of the above

4. What element are the first two months of autumn?
 - a. wood
 - b. fire
 - c. earth
 - d. metal
 - e. water

5. What element is the third month of autumn?
 - a. wood
 - b. fire
 - c. earth
 - d. metal
 - e. water

Quiz 12 Answers: The Seasons

1. The equinoxes and solstices are
- a. at the beginning of a Chinese season
 - b. in the middle of a Chinese season
 - c. at the end of a Chinese season
 - d. unrelated to the Chinese seasons

Answer: b. in the middle of a Chinese season

2. In the Chinese calendar, in what season is June 1st?
- a. spring
 - b. summer
 - c. autumn
 - d. winter

Answer: b. summer

3. What is the earth season?
- e. in between
 - b. late summer
 - f. c. a + b
 - d. none of the above

Answer: c. a + b

4. What element are the first two months of autumn?
- a. wood
 - b. fire
 - c. earth
 - d. metal
 - e. water

Answer: d. metal

5. What element is the third month of autumn?
- a. wood
 - b. fire
 - c. earth
 - d. metal
 - e. water

Answer: c. earth

The following are the 24 directions of the luopan in table format. The letters refer to the divisions on Master Sang's luopan (available at www.amfengshui.com).

Direction	Letter	Chinese	Name	Type	Represents	Degrees
North (kan)	a	子	Zi	Branch 1	Rat	352.5-7.5
	b	癸	Gui	Stem 10	Water -	7.5-22.5
Northeast (gen)	c	丑	Chou	Branch 2	Ox	22.5-37.5
	d	艮	Gen	Trigram	Mountain	37.5-52.5
	e	寅	Yin	Branch 3	Tiger	52.5-67.5
East (zhen)	f	甲	Jia	Stem 1	Wood +	67.5-82.5
	g	卯	Mao	Branch 4	Rabbit	82.5-97.5
	h	乙	Yi	Stem 2	Wood -	97.5-112.5
Southeast (xun)	i	辰	Chen	Branch 5	Dragon	112.5-127.5
	j	巽	Xun	Trigram	Wind/Wood	127.5-142.5
	k	巳	Si	Branch 6	Snake	142.5-157.5
South (li)	l	丙	Bing	Stem 3	Fire +	157.5-172.5
	m	午	Wu	Branch 7	Horse	172.5-187.5
	n	丁	Ding	Stem 4	Fire -	187.5-202.5
Southwest (kun)	o	未	Wei	Branch 8	Sheep	202.5-217.5
	p	坤	Kun	Trigram	Earth	217.5-232.5
	q	申	Shen	Branch 9	Monkey	232.5-247.5
West (dui)	r	庚	Geng	Stem 7	Metal +	247.5-262.5
	s	酉	You	Branch 10	Rooster	262.5-277.5
	t	辛	Xin	Stem 8	Metal -	277.5-292.5
Northwest (qian)	u	戌	Xu	Branch 11	Dog	292.5-307.5
	v	乾	Qian	Trigram	Heaven	307.5-322.5
	w	亥	Hai	Branch 12	Pig	322.5-337.5
North	x	壬	Ren	Stem 9	Water +	337.5-352.5

Note that each of the 24 directions is 15-degrees. Three 15-degree sections combine to make one 45-degree section, represented by one gua (trigram).

Of the twenty-four directions, twelve are represented by branches. The branches alternate with eight of the stems and four of the trigrams. The branches progress in order clockwise around the compass, beginning with zi, the first branch, in the north. North is divided between the top of the above table and the bottom, because this whole sequence begins with zi, which is in the center of the north section.

The four cardinal directions (north, east, south, and west) each have one branch in their middle section (zi, mao, wu, and you, respectively) and two stems of the same element on either side. For example, the north corresponds to water. Zi, one of the water branches, is in the middle 15-degree section of the north. One section counterclockwise from that is ren, and one section clockwise from that is gui. These are the two water stems. East, south, and west have the same layout, using their respective elements.

What about the two earth stems, wu and ji? These do not receive a 15 degree section, but are assigned to the center, as earth corresponds to the center.

The four inter-cardinal directions (northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest) are set up differently. The central 15-degrees corresponds to a gua (trigram). The gua is the one assigned to that direction in the post-heaven sequence: gen to northeast, xun to southeast, kun to southwest, and qian to northwest. This means that these four gua represent both a 45-degree section and also the central 15-degrees of that 45 degree section. (Further understanding of the knowledge and application of guas (trigrams) can be found in the study of the Yi Jing and Feng Shui.)

The other two 15-degree sections of the four inter-cardinal directions are represented by the rest of the branches. Study of the above table will reveal its logic.

What about the other four gua? Kan represents the 45 degrees of the north as a whole, zhen represents the east, li represents the south, and dui represents the west. However, they do not have their own 15-degree sections.

Quiz 13: The Stems, Branches, and Space

1. What are the three 15 degree section of the west on the luopan?
2. Where are the stems wu and ji on the luopan?
3. In what direction xu?
4. In what direction is gui?
5. What is the pattern in the four cardinal directions?
 - a. branch – stem – branch
 - b. stem – branch – stem
 - c. branch – trigram – branch
 - d. stem – trigram - stem
6. What is the pattern in the four inter-cardinal directions?
 - a. branch – stem – branch
 - b. stem – branch – stem
 - c. branch – trigram – branch
 - d. stem – trigram - stem

Quiz 13 Answers

1. What are the three 15 degree section of the west on the luopan?

Answer: geng, you, and xin

2. Where are the stems wu and ji on the luopan?

Answer: the center

3. In what direction xu?

Answer: northwest

4. In what direction is gui?

Answer: north

6. What is the pattern in the four cardinal directions?

a. branch – stem – branch

b. stem – branch – stem

c. branch – trigram – branch

d. stem – trigram - stem

Answer: b. stem – branch – stem

6. What is the pattern in the four inter-cardinal directions?

a. branch – stem – branch

b. stem – branch – stem

c. branch – trigram – branch

d. stem – trigram - stem

Answer: c. branch – trigram – branch

CONCLUSION

Congratulations! You now have a good understanding of the stems and branches and the Chinese calendar. This is the basis of a deep study of Feng Shui, and the beginning of the study of Day Selection and Chinese astrology, such as the Four Pillars and Ziwei Doushu. Many of these classes are already available as on-line classes on the *American Feng Shui Institute's* web page, and other classes will be available soon.

For example, *Four Pillars* refers to a person's birth year stem and branch, month stem and branch, day stem and branch, and hours stem and branch. You can now calculate this yourself.

Example: May 23rd, 1980, noon

Year	Month	Day	Hour
geng	xin	bing	jia
shen	si	shen	wu

This astrology is called Four Pillars, because the birth information is placed in four columns.

In *Ziwei Doushu*, you need to know the year stem and branch, the month branch or number, the day of the lunar month, and the branch or number of the hour of birth. You can now calculate this yourself.

Example: The same date in Ziwei Doushu would be given as the 10th day of the 4th lunar (si) month, of a geng shen year, at the 7th (wu) hour.

In *Day Selection*, you check the fortune or misfortune of the current time and date, by checking its internal harmoniousness, and also by comparing it with some of the birth information of the individual.

Example: The client with the above birth information wants to have a grand opening sometime in the month of August, 2003. Day Selection is based on both the client's birth information and the information based on the calendar of that month.

In *Feng Shui*, there are many uses of the stems and branches and the Chinese calendar. It includes:

- picking an auspicious date to begin construction, renovations, move in, etc.
- determining the compatibility of an individual with a house or a door
- determining directions to avoid digging or construction based on the current date
- determining directions for the placement of remedies based on the individual's birth data
- and much more.

In the old days in China, this material would need to be mastered before a teacher would even begin Feng Shui instruction. However, today in the West it is more often taught after a student has studied Feng Shui for a certain period of time. Many students of this class have already studied Feng Shui. With this additional information, you can now go to a much deeper level.

FINAL EXAM

1. You have a client born on July 1st, 1968, at 9:15 p.m. Daylight Savings Time. Give the stems and branches for his year, month, day, and hour of birth in the solar calendar.
 - a. **year:** wu shen **month:** ji wei **day:** ren shen **hour:** xin hai
 - b. **year:** wu shen **month:** ji wei **day:** ren shen **hour:** geng xu
 - c. **year:** wu shen **month:** wu wu **day:** ren shen **hour:** xin hai
 - d. **year:** wu shen **month:** wu wu **day:** ren shen **hour:** geng xu

2. What is the lunar day and month number for the client in question 1?
 - a. 6th day of the 6th lunar month
 - b. 27th day of the 6th lunar month
 - c. 27th day of the 5th lunar month
 - d. 6th day of the 5th lunar month

3. You have a client born on January 17th, 1976, at 3:30 a.m. Standard Time. Give the stems and branches for her year, month, day, and hour of birth in the solar calendar.
 - a. **year:** yi mao **month:** ji chou **day:** wu chen **hour:** yi mao
 - b. **year:** bing chen **month:** ji chou **day:** wu chen **hour:** jia yin
 - c. **year:** bing chen **month:** ji chou **day:** wu chen **hour:** yi mao
 - d. **year:** yi mao **month:** ji chou **day:** wu chen **hour:** jia yin

4. What is the lunar day and month number for the client in question 3?
 - a. 17th day of the 1st lunar month
 - b. 12th day of the 1st lunar month
 - c. 17th day of the 12th lunar month
 - d. 12th day of the 12th lunar month

5. Your client wants to have a grand opening on September 16th, 2006, at noon, Standard Time. Give the stems and branches for the year, month, day, and hour for the event in the solar calendar.
 - a. **year:** bing xu **month:** bing shen **day:** wu shen **hour:** jia wu
 - b. **year:** bing xu **month:** ding you **day:** wu shen **hour:** wu wu
 - c. **year:** bing xu **month:** bing shen **day:** wu shen **hour:** geng wu
 - d. **year:** bing xu **month:** ding you **day:** wu shen **hour:** jia wu

6. What is the lunar day and month number for the client in question 5?
- a. 23rd day of the leap month between the 7th and 8th lunar month
 - b. 24th day of the leap month between the 7th and 8th lunar month
 - c. 25th day of the leap month between the 7th and 8th lunar month
 - d. 26th day of the leap month between the 7th and 8th lunar month
7. In what Chinese season is November 10th?
- a. spring
 - b. summer
 - c. autumn
 - d. winter
8. In what direction is the shen branch?
- a. southeast
 - b. southwest
 - c. east
 - d. south
9. In what direction is the ding stem?
- a. southeast
 - b. southwest
 - c. east
 - d. south
10. The southeast consists of which three divisions?
- a. chou, gen, and yin
 - b. jia, mao, and yi
 - c. chen, xun, and si
 - d. bing, wu, and ding

FINAL EXAM ANSWERS

1. You have a client born on July 1st, 1968, at 9:15 p.m. Daylight Savings Time. Give the stems and branches for his year, month, day, and hour of birth in the solar calendar.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| a. year: wu shen | month: ji wei | day: ren shen | hour: xin hai |
| b. year: wu shen | month: ji wei | day: ren shen | hour: geng xu |
| c. year: wu shen | month: wu wu | day: ren shen | hour: xin hai |
| d. year: wu shen | month: wu wu | day: ren shen | hour: geng xu |

Answer: d.

Year: wu shen

Month: wu wu. July 1st comes before the ji wei month begins, on July 7th.

Day: ren shen

Hour: geng xu. 9:15 p.m. DST is changed to 8:15 p.m., so xin hai is incorrect.

2. What is the lunar day and month number for the client in question 1?

- a. 6th day of the 6th lunar month
- b. 27th day of the 6th lunar month
- c. 27th day of the 5th lunar month
- d. 6th day of the 5th lunar month

Answer: a. 6th day of the 6th lunar month

3. You have a client born on January 17th, 1976, at 3:30 a.m. Standard Time. Give the stems and branches for her year, month, day, and hour of birth in the solar calendar.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| a. year: yi mao | month: ji chou | day: wu chen | hour: yi mao |
| e. year: bing chen | month: ji chou | day: wu chen | hour: jia yin |
| f. year: bing chen | month: ji chou | day: wu chen | hour: yi mao |
| g. year: yi mao | month: ji chou | day: wu chen | hour: jia yin |

Answer: d.

Year: yi mao. Since this is before the new year, it uses the stem and branch of 1975.

Month: ji chou

Day: wu chen

Hour: jia yin

4. What is the lunar day and month number for the client in question 3?

- a. 17th day of the 1st lunar month
- b. 12th day of the 1st lunar month
- c. 17th day of the 12th lunar month
- d. 12th day of the 12th lunar month

Answer: c. 17th day of the 12th lunar month

5. Your client wants to have a grand opening on September 16th, 2006, at noon, Standard Time. Give the stems and branches for the year, month, day, and hour for the event in the solar calendar.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| a. year: bing xu | month: bing shen | day: wu shen | hour: jia wu |
| b. year: bing xu | month: ding you | day: wu shen | hour: wu wu |
| c. year: bing xu | month: bing shen | day: wu shen | hour: geng wu |
| d. year: bing xu | month: ding you | day: wu shen | hour: jia wu |

Answer: b.

Year: bing xu

Month: ding you. September 16th is after the beginning of the ding you month, which began on September 8th.

Day: wu shen

Hour: wu wu

6. What is the lunar day and month number for the client in question 5?

- a. 23rd day of the leap month between the 7th and 8th lunar month
- b. 24th day of the leap month between the 7th and 8th lunar month
- c. 25th day of the leap month between the 7th and 8th lunar month
- d. 26th day of the leap month between the 7th and 8th lunar month

Answer: b. 24th day of the leap month between the 7th and 8th lunar month

7. In what Chinese season is November 10th?

- a. spring
- b. summer
- c. autumn
- d. winter

Answer: d. winter. Chinese winter begins around November 7th.

8. In what direction is the shen branch?

- a. southeast
- b. southwest
- c. east
- d. south

Answer: b. southwest

9. In what direction is the ding stem?

- a. southeast
- b. southwest
- c. east
- d. south

Answer: d. south

10. The southeast consists of which three divisions?

- a. chou, gen, and yin
- b. jia, mao, and yi
- c. chen, xun, and si
- d. bing, wu, and ding

Answer: c. chen, xun, and si